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### Note by the Secretary-General

**Addendum**

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## 1. CANADIAN RACE RELATIONS FOUNDATION (CRRF)

**Special Consultative Status granted in 2002**

### PART 1. Introduction

The Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF) is a national organization that is committed to building a national framework for the fight against racism and all forms of racial discrimination in Canadian society.

The organization was established as one part of the 1988 Japanese Canadian Redress Agreement between the Government of Canada and Japanese Canadians, to work at the forefront of efforts to combat racism and all forms of racial discrimination in Canada. Under the terms of the agreement, the CRRF received a one-time endowment of $24 million. The CRRF is a registered charitable organization and operates on income derived from investments and donations.

The CRRF carries out its mandate through five key areas of activities:

1. Contract Research Program which funds and publishes research reports on contemporary issues of racism in Canada;
2. Initiatives Against Racism Program which funds community initiatives to raise awareness and combat racism;
3. Awards of Excellence Program which acknowledges outstanding initiatives in anti-racism work throughout Canada. This program is complemented by a symposium to share information and facilitate networking among organizations and agencies involved in anti-racism work;
4. Publications and Clearinghouse on racism and anti-racism(which includes newsletters, "Facts About Series"; annotated bibliographies in the Critical Reading series and the research journal "Directions", among others)
5. Education and Training - workshops, seminars and conferences convened across the country to enhance education in both public and private institutions, and promote awareness of anti-racism issues.

Since its inception the CRRF has undertaken various roles and leadership in the fight to eliminate racism both in Canada and within the international context in areas such as education, policing, promoting dialogue among communities, contributing to evolving knowledge and understanding on the impact of racism.

While the aims of the CRRF remains the same, in the last 2 years of this reporting period, the Foundation has concretely integrated policy development as one of its core activities.

### PART II. Contribution of the CRRF to the work of the United Nations

Through its consultative status, the CRRF has contributed to the work of the United Nations through its participation in various United Nations meetings and domestic meeting related to United Nations work. Its new status has also contributed to enhancing the CRRF's work and impact in the development, promotion and dissemination of knowledge and information, domestically. It has also strengthened the CRRF's role as a catalyst and leader in advancing anti-racism discourse and practice

in Canada, and contributing to Canada's voice and leadership in the international context. The following information will provide a description of the activities that the CRRF has undertaken during its first four-year period since obtaining its special consultative status with the United Nations.

i). **Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conference and other United Nations meetings.**

Geneva, Switzerland, 5 – 6 August, 2002, 61st Session of **Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)**. The CRRF attended and presented its paper, **"Brief to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Further to Canada's 13th and 14th Reports to CERD"** highlighting some of the critical areas of concerns about racism in Canada. The CRRF reported to its constituencies, on its participation, through its newsletter publication, "Perspectives". Approximately, five thousand (5000) copies of the newsletter were published and circulated in each of Canada's 10 provinces and 3 territories. The organization's Annual Report for 2002 -2003, was tabled in the House of Commons.

1. New York, United States of America, 1- 12, March, 2004, Forty-Eighth Session, of the Commission on the Status of Women, Representative attended the meetings.
2. Geneva, Switzerland, 60th Session, Commission on Human Rights, 15 March – 23 April, 2004. Representative attended the meetings.

ii). **Cooperation with United Nations Bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**

Technical Assistance to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Racism on his Mission to Canada, September, 2003. The CRRF was invited by the Secretariat of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to act as interlocutor for civil society for the visit to Canada by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Racism. The CRRF played an integral role in facilitating and coordinating regional meetings between the Special Rapporteur and the Canadian civil society from across the country. Meetings held in the following five cities across Canada: Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Regina.

Through these meetings, the Special Rapporteur consulted with over 200 organizations/community representatives and individuals reflecting Canada's diverse population and communities. The groups and individuals articulated to the Special Rapporteur the historical and contemporary manifestations of racism in Canada.

In April 2005, the CRRF announced, through its On-line Bulletin, the release of the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People, on his mission to Canada.

iii) **Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, which now form the basis of the global agenda for the 21st Century.**

The limited budget of the CRRF makes it difficult for the organization to attend and actively participate at other major conferences and meetings of the Economic and Social Council. As well, the CRRF has focused more heavily on the domestic scene and the implementation of initiatives to

broaden public awareness on Global Principles, specifically relating to the Durban Declaration and Program of Action.

iv). **Activities in Support of Global Principles**

Edmonton, Canada, 24 -27, October, 2002, CRRF Symposium - "Strengthening the Agenda Against Racism in Canada". The CRRF organized this domestic symposium as a follow-up to the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Durban, South Africa, 31 August – 7 September 2001. The Symposium brought together non-governmental and government representatives to dialogue on the outcomes of the Durban process and to determine a set of "priorities for action" towards establishing a domestic agenda against racism in Canada, based on the Declaration and Program of Action of the World Conference. The recommendation from the Symposium formed the "priorities for action". This was compiled and submitted to the federal government under the theme of the Symposium, "Strengthening the Agenda Against Racism in Canada".

Toronto, Canada, 12 July, 2005, "Consultation on Canada's Action Plan Against Racism". The CRRF convened a consultation between the Canadian Government and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), on the national action plan against racism developed by the federal government, titled, "A Canada For All". The process provided an opportunity for the government representatives to dialogue with NGOs on the Plan and the implications for Canadians. As well, NGOs had the opportunity to respond to the Plan and the provisions therein.

## 2. ICLEI—LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

### ECOSOC Special Consultative Status granted in 2002

### Part I. Introduction

ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organisations that have made a commitment to sustainable development.

ICLEI's mission is to build and serve a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global sustainability with special focus on environmental conditions. Through international campaigns and programmes and a variety of thematic and regional networks, ICLEI fosters a movement of local governments to accelerate sustainable development. ICLEI's performance-based, results-oriented campaigns and programs provide local governments with resources, training and professional support.

ICLEI serves as an advocate for its Members before national and international bodies such as the United Nations to increase understanding of and support for local initiatives. It also builds partnerships with other organisations that support such activities. Moreover, ICLEI fulfils the role of an information clearinghouse and provides policy guidance, training, technical assistance and consultancy services to increase local governments' capacity to address global challenges.

In 2004, ICLEI, previously the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, changed its name to "ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability". The new name reflects ICLEI's widened

scope of activities which pertain to sustainability in a broader sense, and no longer limits the organization to simply environmental protection.

**ICLEI Membership**

More than 480 cities, towns, counties, and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership. In the period 2002-2005, ICLEI membership increased from 426 to 482 Members. ICLEI's regional presence is now ensured with the World Secretariat in Toronto, Canada, six regional secretariats, four country offices, and an international training centre.

**Part II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations**

**i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and major conferences of the United Nations**

In the period 2002-2005, ICLEI coordinated delegations of local government leaders to numerous United Nations events and conferences, such as the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) annual sessions and UN-HABITAT conferences.

- United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), 26 August - 4 September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa

In 2002, ICLEI played a major role in the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) by facilitating the involvement of local government in the planning and implementation of this event. In parallel to the WSSD, ICLEI organised the World Summit Local Government Session (27-30 August, 2002). The event allowed municipalities to convey their expectations and positions to the Summit delegates. The event was organized by ICLEI in conjunction with 39 partner organizations including local government associations and United Nations agencies. It assembled more than 900 participants from 69 countries. In a statement entitled "*The Johannesburg Call*", local governments called for a shift from agenda to action. They endorsed Local Action 21, the new action-oriented phase of Local Agenda 21 (LA21), as a motto, mandate, and movement for advancing sustainability at the local level.

- United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD)

After the World Summit in Johannesburg, ICLEI was invited by the CSD Bureau to continue to act as the official coordinator of the Local Authorities Major Group at the annual CSD sessions. In partnership with other local government associations, ICLEI provided input to the Secretary-General's reports and prepared dialogue papers, case studies, statements, interventions and side events, all highlighting the key role that municipalities can play in implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Millennium Development Goals. A delegation of high-level local leaders to CSD-11 through CSD-13 was managed by ICLEI. These are listed below.

- CSD-13 – 11-22 April 2005, United Nations Headquarters in New York

*Theme*: Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements

*Nature of Participation*: Representing the Local Authorities Major Group

*ICLEI Members attending*: Johannesburg (South Africa), Seattle (USA)

*ICLEI Staff attending*: Staff from the ICLEI World Secretariat, and ICLEI Southeast Asia Secretariat

*Activities*: Input to the Secretary General's report, Priorities for Action paper, official statements on behalf of Local Authorities, case studies, interventions and a side event on Local Water Governance.

- CSD-12 – 19-30 April 2004, United Nations Headquarters in New York

*Theme*: Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements

*Nature of Participation*: Representing the Local Authorities Major Group

*ICLEI Members attending*: Johannesburg (South Africa)

*ICLEI Staff attending*: Staff from the ICLEI World Secretariat

*Activities*: Input to the Secretary General's report, dialogue paper, official statements on behalf of Local Authorities, case summaries, interventions, a side event on Lessons Learnt from Local Government Leaders, and the launch of the 'Local Government Implementation Guide' website.

- CSD-11 – 28 April – 9 May 2003, United Nations Headquarters in New York

*Theme*: Priority Actions and Commitments to Implement WSSD Outcomes

*Nature of Participation*: Representing the Local Authorities Major Group

*ICLEI Members attending*: Johannesburg (South Africa) and Helsinki (Finland)

*ICLEI Staff attending*: Staff from the ICLEI World Secretariat

*Activities*: Input to the Secretary General's report, dialogue paper, official statements on behalf of Local Authorities, case summaries, interventions, and an implementation partnership event on Resilient Communities & Cities.

➢ UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

ICLEI holds official Observer status with the UNFCCC and has been the lead organisation representing local governments at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties - COP 8 through COP 11.

- COP11/MOP1 - 28 November - 9 December 2005, Montréal, Canada

*ICLEI Members attending*: approx. 65 local governments

*ICLEI Staff attending*: Staff from all ICLEI Offices and Secretariats

*Activities*: Side event on the role of local governments, and a local government representative addressed the COP plenary. Furthermore, in parallel with international gathering, ICLEI hosted the Fourth Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change.

- COP-10 – 6-17 December 2004; Buenos Aires, Argentina

*ICLEI Staff attending*: Staff from ICLEI Latin America and Caribbean Secretariat

*Activities*: hosted a seminar, "CDM Opportunities for Local Governments", and holding the VII Cities for Climate Protection Workshop.

➢ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

ICLEI holds official Observer status with the UNCCD.

➢ Participation in major conferences and other major United Nations meetings:

- 2nd International Expert Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production 5-8 September 2005, Costa Rica

*ICLEI Staff attending*: Staff from the ICLEI European Secretariat

Activities: held a session on sustainable procurement for national governments.

- UN-HABITAT World Forum II – 13-17 September 2004, Barcelona, Spain

*ICLEI Staff attending*: Staff from the ICLEI World Secretariat and ICLEI Canada Office

*Activities*: prepared and participated in a session organized by UNEP, and a session by the UN University.

- UNEP Governing Council - 8th Special Session – 29-31 March 2004, Jeju, Republic of Korea (South Korea)

*ICLEI Member/Staff attending*: City of Johannesburg; Executive Mayor Amos Masondo attending as President of ICLEI

*Activities*: invited to address the Council on behalf of Local Authorities.

- UNEP Governing Council – 22nd Session - 3-7 February 2003, Nairobi, Kenya

*ICLEI Staff attending*: ICLEI President

*Activities*: attended on behalf of Local Authorities (observer role).

- UNEP – DTIE – IETC 6th International Advisory Board Meeting - 3 December 2003, Otsu, Japan

*ICLEI Staff attending*: ICLEI Secretary General

*Activities*: attended on behalf of Local Authorities (observer role).

- UNEP – DTIE – IETC 5h International Advisory Board Meeting - 4 December 2002, Osaka, Japan

*ICLEI Staff attending*: ICLEI Secretary General

*Activities*: attended on behalf of Local Authorities (observer role).

**ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialised agencies**

Through a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-HABITAT and cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ICLEI work towards linking local governments' sustainable development action to the global programs of these agencies. Through a partnership with the UN-HABITAT Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme, ICLEI gained valuable information on international best practices and was able to share the good work of its Members. ICLEI is also a member of the Steering Committee of the UN-HABITAT Urban Governance Campaign.

## 3. INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT CENTER – IIC

**Special Consultative Status Granted in 1998**

**Part I. Introduction**

According to the IIC Charter, its general aims and purposes are:

To provide sustainable economic and democratic development on the basis of mutual benefit, the development of small and medium-sized business and international business promotion, the protection of human rights, the development of education and international understanding, the support of the activities of the United Nations Organization.

While the aims and purposes remained the same, during the reporting period IIC achieved geographic expansion in 2004 when the IIC Representative office was set up in Cisinau, Republic of Moldova. This has allowed IIC to develop relations with Non-Governmental Organizations in the Former Soviet Union.

**Part II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations**

**i) Participation in the work of Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, major conferences and other United Nations meetings**

1. In 2002 IIC representatives attended:

1) Plenary Session of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) 27-28 May 2002, Geneva, Switzerland

2) International Forum on Trade Facilitation: Simpler Procedures for World Trade Growth, 29-30 May 2002, Geneva, Switserland

3) Round Table on the Implementation of Trade Facilitation in Transition Economies, 31 May 2002, Geneva, Switserland

4) Sixth Annual Session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED) 28-31 May 2002, Geneva, Switserland

5) First Regional Forum on Youth: "Security, Opportunity and Prosperity", organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE) 26-28 August 2002, Geneva, Switserland, where IIC presented a report entitled, "Young Talents Program".

6) UN General Assembly Meeting, 22 November 2002, New York United States of America

2. In 2003 IIC representatives attended:

1) Global Youth Synergy Summit, organised by the World Youth Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE) 28 January – 2 February 2003, Zagreb, Croatia

where IIC presented a report entitled, "Youth Entrepreneurship Development"

2) Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Forum on Youth XXI century – Realities and Perspectives, organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE) in cooperation with United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Government of Ukraine, and with the support of International Labor Organization, UNICEF, Joint United Nations

Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 24-26 September 2003 Kiev, Ukraine. Two IIC reports on "Employment of Former Military Personnel" and "Young Talents Program" were presented to the Forum.

In 2005 IIC representatives attended:

1) United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE) Fourth Public-Private Partnership Alliance Meeting 24-25 October 2005 London, United Kingdom

**ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**

During the reported period IIC representatives attended :

1) Meeting of Russian Non-government Organizations with United Nations Consultative Status, where relations with the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations were discussed with a representative of the Non-Governmental Organization Section, in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 19 April 2002, Moscow, Russia;

2) Advisory Mission throughout the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE) Regions (UN ECE/World Youth Bank), Minsk, Belarus 23-29 August 2003 where IIC took an active part in the discussion and provided expertise on business development projects and investment opportunities in Belorussia;

3) Fourth meeting of the Team of Specialists (TOS) on Youth Enterpreneurship of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE) 9-10 February 2004, Geneva, Switserland;

4) Fifth Session of the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE) 12-13 February 2004, Geneva, Switserland;

5) 52nd Session of the Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice (WP.5), 24 October 2005, London, United Kingdom, where IIC representative took part in the roundtable "Strategy of the UNECE Public-Private Partnership Alliance in a regional and global perspectives".

**iii) Initiatives undertaken by IIC to support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals**

**- Goal 2- Achieve Universal Primary Education**

In 2005 IIC implemented "Project Smile" to support 30 children, involved in criminal cases and put in special closed schools. Project started with the art competition with prizes (volleyball and football balls, table tennis and chess sets) for winners and continued as sports competition.

**- Goal 3 – Promote Gender Equality**

In 2005 IIC implemented project "Women Leadership" – cycle of seminars in rural areas of Russia to help local women (100 participants) to take part in the upcoming elections to the local councils. Special training manuals (150 copies) with the special chapter, devoted to the activities of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women were published and distributed among activists, mass-media, administration, and sent to local libraries. Project was implemented with the financial support of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Moscow.

**- Goal 7 – Ensure Environmental Sustainability**

In 2003, 2004 and 2005 IIC organized Children's Art Competition in the regions of the Russian Federation and engaged participation of more than 300 children in connection with the UNICEF-supported International Children's Art Competition in Environmental Protection, held in Tokyo, Japan. In 2005 two Russian girls (9 and 12 years old) became winners of the competition. Their artworks among other winning pictures were exhibited in United Nations Headquarters in New York and Geneva and printed on UNICEF postcards.

**ii.) Activities in Support of Global Principles**

On 3 June 2002 IIC had signed an agreement to became an Information Dissemination Center (Multiplier Point) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE) and has worked in this capacity since that time. During the reporting period, 2002-2005, more than 100 magazines, guidelines, compendiums, newsletters, and brochures were distributed on business and education related issues.

## 4. THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WRITING GUILD – IWWG

**Special Consultative Status granted in 1998**

**Part I-i. Aims and purposes of the organization.** Founded in 1976, the IWWG is a network for the personal and professional empowerment of women through writing and is open to all regardless of portfolio. Since its inception, the IWWG has advocated the practice of personal writing as a generic process through which women can access their human potential as an individual and participate in advancements made by the women's movement without becoming politicized. The IWWG has established a remarkable record of achievement in the publishing world, as well as in circles where lifelong learning and personal transformation are valued for their own sake.

Outwardly, the IWWG addresses the business of writing—its craft, styles and genres; and its marketplace. Yet from the start, the IWWG proposed writing from personal experience as beginning a transformational process for each individual. Everyone in the IWWG begins with personal writing such as the journal, the memoir and the autobiography; a practice that develops writers but more importantly furthers personal growth, transformation and an authentic voice. The act of writing brings structure to each individual's process of development. The basic functional units of the IWWG process are Kitchen Tables (local writing groups) and nearly 150 Regional Representatives (the primary resources for contact who facilitate events in their region [list on request]). In local Kitchen Tables, women gather to share their journal writing and, through listening, support one another's right to speak. This creates bonding and community based on shared experience where writing is a tool of growth, not a goal-driven end product.

The implementation of the IWWG's main course of action—individual writing witnessed by others who support the process of bringing forth one's developing voice—is flexible and diverse. The organization expresses this course of action in local gatherings as well as at least eight regional events throughout the United States, which are open to the public as well as to the organization's membership. The gatherings called, "Meet the Agents"- open houses held twice yearly in New York City - have fostered partnerships leading to the publication of hundreds of books. The IWWG's

annual, weeklong summer writing conference, attended by some 500 women, is held at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York. All members receive IWWG's bimonthly 32-page *Network Journal*, which covers environmental and health-related issues; includes information on events, local writing groups, publications by members; and hundreds of contests, awards and publication opportunities, as well a listing of literary agents and independent small printing presses. Special projects include the Prison Project, in which members correspond with female inmates and/or conduct writing workshops in prisons. The IWWG's archival home is the Sophia Smith Collection, the foremost women's history collection at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

**ii. Change leading to significant impact on IWWG.** In 2005, a significant geographic expansion of the organization's membership occurred when the IWWG co-sponsored the IWWG/Geneva Conference with the Geneva Writer's Group (1-2 October, 2005, Geneva, Switzerland). While the IWWG's broad aims and objectives as well as the nature of its activities have remained the same, the Geneva conference resulted in 45 new and renewed international members for the organization and this has expanded its membership to a total of 33 countries [list on request]. In 10 countries, members have become IWWG regional representatives [list on request]. This expansion provides the IWWG with increased opportunity to cooperate synergistically with Non-governmental Organizations based outside of the United States, supporting the personal and professional development of those who work within Non-governmental Organizations as well as members of the populations they serve.

**Part II-i. Contribution of the IWWG to the work of the United Nations.** The credo of the Millennium Campaign, "Only With Your Voice," states the need for all individuals to raise their voices on behalf of those without the opportunity or freedom to speak. Strengthening the public voices of those already in societies allowing the freedom of speech is a direct function of the IWWG. In addition, the organization's unique capacity as a grassroots organization to support the first steps of expression for women whose homes, communities or nations may have limited their voices is of incalculable value in the global landscape.

Thus, the organization has one of all-inclusive, humanitarian focus that supports the work of the United Nations as stated in Article 55 of its Charter: ". . . the United Nations shall promote: . . . universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion"; and in Article 62 of the Charter: "The Economic and Social Council may . . . make recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all."

The IWWG is funded entirely through members' modest dues, and its events are staffed by volunteers. Prior to 2005, the organization did not have a representative committed to consistently attending conferences and special events at United Nations Headquarters in New York City or in Geneva. During the years 2002-2005, the organization continued to expand its membership base through its main action of supporting the personal and professional empowerment of women through the structure of writing and by hosting local and regional events throughout the United States.

Participating in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies in 2005, the organization gained a volunteer representative in New York City who attended the following conferences and events, all at United Nations Headquarters, New York:

The Beijing +10 Conference: Forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (28 February-11 March); ceremony to launch the "Water for Life" Decade (22 March); the 4th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (16-27 May); the International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9 August) and the 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference (7-9 September). The organization's representative is a member of the Working Group for the Second Decade of Indigenous Peoples, a Non-governmental Organizations Committee that meets monthly.

For the 4th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (New York, United Nations Headquarters, 16-27 May 2005), the IWWG's representative was a key facilitator for the participation of the Hopi Nation delegation from Arizona. Among Native Americans and indigenous peoples worldwide, the Hopi spiritual tradition is respected for its prayers for the well-being of all mankind; and for its primary goal—the attainment of peace among all peoples. A spiritual leader of the Hopi Nation and member of the 2005 Hopi delegation offered the prayer that opened the 4th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on 16 May 2005.

The organization's representative summarized the 2005 United Nations conferences she attended in the final issue for 2005 of *Network Journal*, the organization's membership magazine, and the full-length report was posted on the IWWG's website: www.iwwg.org.

The special nature of the organization's structure and its main course of action, which supports the personal and professional empowerment of women through writing, do not foster direct participation in intergovernmental work. Rather, the humanitarian focus of the IWWG nourishes the development of each individual's voice. Within the United Nations and NGOs, work is accomplished through the written and the spoken word, and the development of each voice supports a fuller contribution and greater professional efficacy. Ongoing implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is indivisible from the necessity to strengthen women's voices individually and collectively. Increased participation of women in all sectors is inherent for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Women's participation in any development process is limited or enhanced in direct proportion to their expression. This requires an internal strengthening of their voice prior to external communication and contribution. Through the recent international expansion of the IWWG membership, the organization anticipates greater opportunities for exposure of its strength as a resource of support and development for United Nations and NGO personnel, and through increased activity within the United Nations system, for reaching women in the populations served by NGOs and United Nations programs.

## 5. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS - NACDL

**(Special Consultative Status granted in 2002)**

### PART I. Introduction

*i.* The aim and purpose of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) is to ensure justice and due process for persons accused of crime, foster the integrity, independence and expertise of the criminal defense profession, and promote the proper and fair administration of criminal justice. NACDLwas formed exclusively for charitable, scientific, educational and legislative

purposes including without limitation, the following: (a) To promote study and research in the field of criminal defense law and procedure and constitutional law; (b) To disseminate by lecture, seminars and publications such theories, technologies and techniques that support or promote the field of criminal defense advocacy; (c) To sponsor periodic meetings of the criminal defense bar, domestically and internationally; (d) To represent the Association before the legislative, executive, judicial and international bodies which determine policy for the state and federal governments and international institutions in a manner that promotes the mission of the Association and its objectives and purposes; and (e) To preserve, protect and defend the adversary system of justice, in the United States and Internationally.

*ii.* In 2002 NACDL had 10,300 domestic members, as of the end of 2005, it had 12,211 domestic members. As part of its growing international focus, NACDL has increased it international affiliations and its international memberships has grown from 34 in 2002 to 152 in 2005. NACDL remains principally a domestic Non-Governmental Organization, however, NACDL has expanded its international work in Human Rights related to the NACDL criminal defense mission, and its international work has now been incorporated into Organizations' long range plans.

**PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

**i). Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.**

NACDL members have participated in the 61st session, 14 March – 22 April, 2005; 60th session, 15 March – 23 April, 2004; and 58th session, 18 March – 26 April, 2002; of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, through prepared written statements, made oral interventions and participated in parallel NGO meetings principally in support of the Commission and particularly the resolution "On the Question of the Death Penalty". NACDL also worked in support of related criminal justice issues such as racism and unlawful detentions.

NACDL had also sponsored law students to observe and participate in the functioning of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. At its 61st session, students participated from law schools in Nigeria, Serbia and Montenegro, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and Zimbabwe. At its 60th session, students came from Nigeria, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States.

At the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, NACDL co-sponsored with other international NGOs a briefing titled "THE ROLE OF THE UN TOWARD ENDING EXECUTIONS, True Stories and Practical Realities in Africa and the U.S.A.". Speakers at the parallel meeting were the 109th inmate released from death row in the United States, a former death row inmate in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a Defense Counsel Coordinator for Mexican Nationals on death rows in the United States, a Genocide Survivor from Rwanda, and a Death Row Phenomenon Scholar from the University of Central England, Birmingham, England, United Kingdom. At the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, NACDL co-sponsored a parallel meeting titled "UN MORATORIUM ON EXECUTIONS". The speakers were Former Governor of Illinois, United States, who spoke on his pardon of 167 death row inmates, the leader of the Overseas Chinese Democracy Coalition, who was once under sentence of death in China, an inmate who was placed on death row for two and half years in China, as well a representative of NACDL.

The NACDL Board of Directors passed a resolution in April 2005 supporting the work of Penal Reform International (PRI) and its programs at the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (the 11th Congress) held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 18-25 April 2005. Specifically NACDL noted that 11th Congress celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and joined PRI to call on adoption of the draft Charter for the Fundamental Rights of Prisoners.

**ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.**

NACDL has not had the opportunity for direct cooperation with a United Nations body but will work toward participating in cooperative programs in the future.

**iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals,** which now form the basis of the global agenda for the 21st century.

NACDL's participation in the Millennium goals come under the **"Activities in Support of Global Principles"** as follows: NACDL participated in the First Meeting of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), sponsored by ECPM (Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort: Together Against the Death Penalty), Brussels, Belgium. 24 January 2002. NACDL has remained an active participant in WCADP meetings and programs since our significant participation and presentations at the Second World Congress Against the Death Penalty in Montreal Canada 6-10 October 2004. Members of NACDL had participated in the steering committee meeting of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty in Paris, France on September 12, 2005 and in the 6th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Rome on November 24-26, 2005.

NACDL is a Founding Voting Member of the International Criminal Bar (ICB) for attorneys practicing before the International Criminal Court, since its meeting was held in Montreal, Canada, 13-15 June 2002. NACDL members were responsible for drafting portions of the ICB constitution and bylaws as well as drafting significant portions of a proposed ethics code for lawyers practicing before the International Criminal Court, most of which has been adopted by the Assembly of states parties in their final version of the code. In June 2003, NACDL in cooperation with the ICB organized and its members taught the first trial advocacy training course designed specifically for lawyers interested in practicing before the International Criminal Court. The course was produced at Leiden University in The Hague and was attended by lawyers from around the world. This course and a more advanced course has been reproduced in 2004, 2005 and 2006 in Montreal, Senegal, New York and again in the Hague.

NACDL has filed the following Amicus Curie briefs in the United States Supreme Court in support of the global principles of Human Rights: Sanchez-Llamas v. Oregon, Amicus Curiae Brief, United States Supreme Court, No. 04-10566, NACDL and The Law Council Of Australia As *Amici Curiae.* In Support Of Petitioner Moises Sanchez-Llamas, on the right to an adequate remedy for violations of Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, filed December 22, 2005. Deck v. Missouri, Amicus Curiae Brief, 125 S.Ct. 2007, 161 L.Ed.2d 953 (2005), NACDL and The Bar Human Rights Committee England and Wales, and *Amicus*, in support of Petitioner, Carman L. Deck,

on international law and the open shellacking of Deck before the jury during the penalty phase of a capital case.

In China NACDL activities include a Sino-US Seminar on Criminal Defense, sponsored by NACDL and the Beijing Municipal Bar Association, Beijing, China, 15-27 October 2002. NACDL members participated in a one week criminal defense workshop, sponsored by International Bridges to Justice, Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, China in October 2003. NACDL co-sponsored with the Beijing Municipal Lawyers Association meetings in October of 2005 in Beijing, China including meetings with lawyers and law students at Peking University, and exchanges with the Ministry of Justice. NACDL hosted Chinese criminal defense lawyers from the Beijing Municipal Bar Association for training and observations on aspects of the United States criminal justice system, in New Orleans and New York, United States, 9-16 February 2005.

NACDL was a founding member in the Coalition of NGO's focused on bringing international human rights into the domestic law of the United States of America.

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## Note by the Secretary-General

**Addendum**

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# 1. Association pour la Formation et l'Insertion Sociale de l'Adolescent et de la Femme (AFISAF)

**(Special consultative status granted in 2002)**

## Part I
## Introduction

### i. The aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and purposes of the Association pour la Formation et l'Insertion Sociale de l'Adolescent et de la Femme (AFISAF) are to educate, raise the awareness of and train youth and women in environmental protection, the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and of AIDS, and about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, crime and prostitution. AFISAF also seeks to promote greater participation in decision-making, to encourage and help women to become more independent through access to loans from banks and cooperatives, to reduce unemployment and poverty and to establish partnerships at the national and international levels.

## Part II
## Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

### i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

AFISAF organized a seminar on the protection of endangered species in collaboration with the World Conservation Union and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), in Somalomo (Cameroon), in May 2002.

At the invitation of the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of AFISAF represented the organization on the High-level Panel on UN-Civil Society Relations which met in Johannesburg, South Africa on 25 and 26 November 2003. AFISAF was thus able to share its views about the relationship that should exist between the United Nations and civil society.

From 8-10 September 2003, in New York, AFISAF participated in the NGO Conference organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information and in the preparatory committee for the World Summit on the Information Society on the theme "Human security and dignity: fulfilling the promise of the United Nations".

On 6 July 2004, AFISAF participated in a conference of civil society organizations on the theme "Civil society, governance, combating poverty, and development", organized by the Canadian International Development Agency.

AFISAF participated in the 57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference on the theme "Millennium Development Goals: civil society takes action", in September 2004, in New York.

In partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), AFISAF organized a "heart-to-heart and listening lunch" ("repas de coeur et d'écoute") for vulnerable children on 11 February 2005, in Yaoundé (Cameroon).

AFISAF participated in the Beijing+10 Review Process, in the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and in the review of the 12 critical areas of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, from 1-11 March 2005, in New York.

### ii. Initiatives undertaken by the organization for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

**Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**

**Combat HIV/AIDS**

AFISAF participated in September 2002 in a meeting between the Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), non-governmental organizations and associations for the development of strategies to combat AIDS.

On 28 November 2002, in Yaoundé (Cameroon), AFISAF participated in a seminar on STDs organized by the association Women Without Borders.

On 1 March 2003, in Yaoundé (Cameroon), AFISAF organized a campaign for awareness-raising, prevention and the distribution of women's contraceptives to market vendors. A television programme was also broadcast on this subject.

The President of AFISAF was interviewed at the DPI/NGO Conference and at the Beijing+10 Review Process, in September 2004 and March 2005, respectively (www.un.org/french/audiovis/radio/2004/septembre/04091300.htm).

On 10 September 2004, AFISAF participated in a discussion on the challenges of counselling in combating AIDS and in other activities at the American Cultural Centre. The discussion was organized in collaboration with Synergies Africaines.

**Promote gender equality and empower women**

Within the framework of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, AFISAF familiarized itself with the use of the computerized trade database at the Embassy of the United States of America, on 15 July 2002, in Yaoundé (Cameroon).

AFISAF participated in a women's leadership and advocacy skills workshop on the "Fifty-Fifty Parity Project", in collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), on 28 January 2002, at the British Council (Cameroon).

On 1 March 2003, in Cameroon, AFISAF organized training sessions in information and communication technologies (ICT), an exhibit on rural women's networks and a workshop on gender and decision-making.

AFISAF participated in the seminar on the national information, education and communication strategy for feedback and information on United Nations activities in 2003, in partnership with a local association Judicial's Sisters, on 9 October 2003, in Edéa (Cameroon).

On 7 and 8 June 2005, in Yaoundé (Cameroon), AFISAF participated in the preparatory meeting for the G-8 summit organized by the Economic Commission for Africa.

As part of the Beijing+10 Review Process, AFISAF organized a conference on the theme "Let's work together: realizing the vision", in partnership with the association Women for Action and Development, on 28 December 2005, in Cameroon.

**Eradicate extreme poverty**

In March 2003, AFISAF organized in Yaoundé (Cameroon) an information and communication technology (ICT) seminar on youth and employment opportunities.

AFISAF participated in the work of the inter-ministerial committee open to the private sector of commission 5 charged with reviewing the development of human resources and competitiveness, from 21-23 April 2003, in Douala (Cameroon).

AFISAF participated in the fifth regional seminar of economic and social interest groups of the Africa, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) - European Union (EU) partnership, from 21-23 May 2003, in Yaoundé (Cameroon).

AFISAF participated in the France-Cameroon concerted Multi-Stakeholder Programme on Debt (debt relief and development), in November 2003.

In November 2003, in Douala (Cameroon), AFISAF participated in a business creation fair on the theme "How and where to sell Cameroonian industrial, agricultural and craft products: the role of women in the trade in Cameroonian products".

AFISAF participated in the national seminar on the elaboration of a national development strategy for rural youth in Cameroon, from 6-8 July 2004, in Yaoundé (Cameroon).

AFISAF participated in the national workshop on information, exchange, and training on the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, and in the civil society advocacy campaign organized by the Ecumenical Service for Peace, from 27-29 April 2004, in Yaoundé (Cameroon).

AFISAF participated in the discussion on economic and regional integration in Africa organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) at the 15th meeting of African Ministers of Industry in October 2004, in Yaoundé (Cameroon).

On 30 June 2005, in Yaoundé (Cameroon), AFISAF participated in the forum "Les Jeudis de Cotonou" on the question of funding for small and medium-sized enterprises/industries in the negotiation of ACP/EU agreements.

## 2. Comité d'Action pour les Droits de la Femme et de l'Enfant (CADEF)

**(Special Consultative Status granted in November 1996)**

### Part I
### Introduction

**I.1. Constituent bodies**

(a) General Assembly

- Meets every three years;
- Consists of the organization's members;
- Defines overall policy;
- Approves reports on activities and proposed programme budgets;
- Appoints the members of the Executive Board.

(b) Executive Board

*Fixed membership as follows*:

- Executive Director;
- Administrative Assistant;
- Deputy Director in charge of programmes;
- Political Adviser;
- Accountant.

*Non-permanent members responsible for the following areas*:

- Legal affairs;
- Population and reproductive health issues;
- External relations;
- Education, communication and awareness-raising;
- Organization and sociopolitical coordination of regional offices;
- Accounting expertise.

The Executive Board prepares the programme budgets and reports to the Board of Directors.

(c) Board of Directors comprised of:

- Two representatives of civil society;
- Two representatives of the Government (Ministry for the Advancement of Women, Children and Families; Ministry of Health);
- Two representatives of the organization's development partners;
- Six members of CADEF Bamako and CADEF regional offices.

### I.2. Aims and purposes of the organization

CADEF is a non-governmental organization which was founded on 8 March 1990 and recognized as a public interest organization in April 1991. It has more than 500 members throughout Mali.

The organization's executive management is based in Bamako, and it also has regional offices in Kayes, Ségou, Sikasso, Markala and Koutiala.

*General aims and purposes*:

- To promote, protect and defend women's and children's human rights.

*Specific purposes*:

- To monitor the effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- To take part in the democratization process with a view to building a peaceful society;
- To help strengthen, protect and defend the legislative, legal, social, economic and cultural rights acquired by the people of Mali;
- To help build a culture of human rights, peace and tolerance;
- To help strengthen good governance in Mali;
- To strengthen the ties of friendship, cooperation and solidarity between women of Mali, Africa and the world who are working to promote human rights.

## II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

### II.1. Activities in Mali

*II.1.1. General*

- Strengthening of the organization's efforts to promote, defend and protect women's rights;
- Information, education and communication on women's and children's rights:

  350 activities were carried out among rural and urban women in four regions of the country, involving 10,000 women aged between 18 and 50 years;

  100 activities were carried out among young people between 10 and 22 years of age, involving more than 3,000 young people (both with and without schooling).

*II.1.2. Activities among young people*

- Numerous conferences and debates were held on the United Nations conventions on children's and women's rights at five secondary schools in Bamako and five regional secondary schools;
- Twenty refresher courses were held for teachers at these schools on women's rights, children's rights, the fight against poverty, and globalization;
- CADEF helped prepare a plan of action to combat trafficking in children;

- CADEF helped draft and disseminate Mali's Family Protection Code and Child Protection Code;
- CADEF helped prepare the entrance exhibit for the 2005 World Summit held at the United Nations Secretariat in New York;
- CADEF was the first NGO to denounce cross-border child trafficking and testified to the Government to this effect on 10 December 2001 and 20 November 2002;
- CADEF took part in the media campaign to mobilize public opinion against child labour at 20 primary schools in Bamako and 30 schools in the regions of Kayes, Sikasso and Ségou. The campaign involved more than 50,000 young people aged between 6 and 18 years;
- On the occasion of Pan African Women's Day (31 July), CADEF took part in a protest against child labour, in collaboration with an NGO association, two trade unions and the representative of the International Labour Organization in Mali.

*II.1.3. Advocacy among political authorities*

- CADEF was the first NGO to denounce trafficking in children and to urge the Government to acknowledge the seriousness of the situation on the border between Mali and Côte d'Ivoire;
- CADEF played an active role in the discussions held between the Ministry of the Interior and local communities on electoral law reform. The President of CADEF argued strongly for the introduction of a one-third quota of women candidates for electoral lists and for all public and private sector posts. The draft amendment to the electoral law was rejected by Parliament in August/September 2006. All the country's women's groups expressed their indignation at a system that is supposed to be democratic but which in fact is profoundly male chauvinist;
- CADEF has joined with French and Malian NGOs to fight for the adoption of a law to punish those who engage in the sexual mutilation of young girls and women;
- Advocacy among political, Government and union authorities to promote women's access to decision-making positions within decision-making bodies and mechanisms at the local, regional and national levels. Fifteen women have been elected to the National Assembly, five to Government posts, 113 as town councillors; three as mayors; three as ambassadors; and five as diplomatic counsellors;
- Briefings were held for members of parliament on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. CADEF held the briefings on three occasions — in 2001, 2002 and 2003 — to inform and raise the awareness of between 60 and 80 members of parliament, with the President of the National Assembly in attendance, on the role to be played by the country's elected officials in the implementation of the two Conventions. At each briefing, CADEF stressed the importance of commemorating the dates of 8 March, 6 June, 31 July and 20 November.

*II.1.4. Support for the Government and the National Assembly*

- On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, CADEF organized two information briefings on human rights for members of parliament, at the United Nations and in Mali;

- CADEF works with the following Ministries:

– The Ministry for the Advancement of Women, Children and Families, on the draft Family Code, the national policy to combat all practices that are harmful to women's health, on promoting women's access to positions of responsibility and elected posts, and to promote the emancipation of rural women;

– Ministry of Health, on reproductive health, the gender issue, and relevant legislation. The collaboration included training and refresher courses aimed at improving the quality of health care;

– The Ministry of Education, to ensure that school curricula promote the principles of human rights, tolerance and peace;

– The Ministry of Justice, to organize Government briefings on human rights. Every year, on 10 December, CADEF presents a report on human rights abuses against women and children in Mali.

*II.1.5. Legal and judicial assistance for women whose rights have been violated, in collaboration with other human rights actors*

- Fifty cases in Mali and two cases in Nigeria.

*II.1.6. Promotion of women's reproductive rights*

- Since 2005, the President of CADEF has been urging the National Ethics Committee, of which she is a member, to prepare a draft law on medically assisted childbirth in Mali;

- With the support of the Embassy of Canada in Mali, CADEF implemented in the Kayes region a project on reproductive health, human rights and gender, involving the training of 50 young male and female volunteers, and rehabilitated and equipped four rural maternity centres in Kayes N'Di, Coniakary, Segala and Diabigué. In 2003, a refresher course on population and health was held at CADEF headquarters for 12 senior medical and paramedical workers from Kayes and Bamako;

- In the area of research and social action, CADEF instructed and trained a number of young women and men in social and health policies in Mali. From 2000 to 2005, this activity involved four law students, two students from the School of Medicine, and four NGO interns from Canada, two from France, and two from Sweden.

By improving the knowledge of workers in the social and health sectors about human rights and gender, CADEF was able to bring the skills of paramedical and social workers into line with international human rights standards. This activity involved 200 workers in the regions of Kayes, Ségou and Markala. Overall, these actions affected more than 4,000 women and 8,000 children between 0 and 8 years of age (in the form of prenatal, perinatal and postnatal

care, vaccination against childhood diseases, and the fight against genital mutilation, HIV/AIDS and malaria).

Fifty rural volunteers were trained in law/health and gender in Mali's first region.

*II.1.7. Civic, artistic, environmental and preschool education.*

- Provided to 150 children aged between three and five years.

**II.2. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies (CEDAW/CSW, UNICEF-UNFPA)**

*II.2.1. Africa*

- CADEF provides support for Governments and civil society organizations. At the invitation of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, the President of CADEF took part in training sessions on the preparation of country reports on the application of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, held in Gabon, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. The sessions were attended by 100 Government officials and representatives of 50 NGOs and political parties;
- CADEF took part in the drafting of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa additional to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which took place in Johannesburg.

*II.2.2. At the international level*

The organization's international collaboration includes the following:

- Collaboration with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
- Collaboration with the Commission on the Status of Women, New York;
- Conference on women's rights within Islam (Dakar, Senegal);
- Conference on women's rights within Islam (Amman, Jordan) December;
- The commemoration of 50 years of human rights, held in Paris by the Government of France and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The President of CADEF gave a presentation on women's human rights and globalization;
- CADEF works in the areas of women's and children's rights with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), OHCHR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

*II.2.3. Future strategy*

With respect to United Nations programmes on women's and children's rights, CADEF has developed a strategic plan for the period 2007-2010 which addresses the following key areas:

*II.2.4. Mali*

- Education to build a culture of human rights, tolerance and peace;
- Monitoring the implementation of the two United Nations Conventions on the rights of women and children;
- Support for good governance;
- Support for reproductive health/the law and research/social action in partnership with researchers and on the gender issue;
- CADEF will remain committed to working with United Nations specialized agencies on behalf of women's and children's rights.

*II.2.5. At the international level*

- Conference on women's rights within Islam (Dakar, Senegal), 2001.

  In 2001, the University of Capetown organized a high-level week-long conference on human rights, Islam and tradition. The President of CADEF gave a presentation on the complementary nature of the rights accorded to women by the Prophet Mohammed and the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

- Women's rights (Amman, Jordan, December 2002).

  The young King of Jordan held a global conference on religion and peace. The President of CADEF was invited to speak on women's rights in relation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. She urged all attending Governments to withdraw their reservations to the Convention, which remains a source of great hope for women around the world, regardless of their religion.

- Twenty-sixth and twenty-ninth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, New York.

  The President of CADEF took part in meetings between members of the Committee and NGOs and reported on the efforts of CADEF to promote, protect and defend women's and children's rights within the framework of the two United Nations Conventions.

- The President of CADEF took part in the meeting of the African Group, the Group of European Union NGOs, and the organizational committee of the special session on children of the United Nations General Assembly chaired by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In the presence of former UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy and the former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, the CADEF President pledged that her NGO would support the world movement of children for peace.

- The President of CADEF also participated in discussions on the Global Network of Religions working for children's rights which were attended by senior governmental and non-governmental officials from the Buddhist, Muslim and Christian religions.

- As a member of the New York-based NGO Committee of UNICEF, the CADEF President also took part in a meeting of the Committee, which

presented a comparative study on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in collaboration with the Netherlands NGO coalition at the United Nations World Summit on Children.

- A CADEF delegate was invited to participate in the Girls International Forum in New York.

- Whether engaged with UNICEF, UNFPA or CIDA, representatives of CADEF consistently emphasized their holistic vision of women's and children's rights in the context of international, African and Malian legal instruments. They also contributed to the enhancement or amendment of the development programmes of UNICEF and UNFPA within the framework of the two United Nations Conventions.

In conclusion, CADEF is in need of technical, educational and financial support in order to achieve its objectives, which are in line with the Beijing Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development, the Programme of Action of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights and Mali's own programmes for sustainable development. CADEF would therefore be extremely grateful if the Chief of the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs would help it to establish links with international NGOs that might provide institutional support.

## 3. International Women's Year Liaison Group — IWYLG

**(Special Consultative Status granted in 1998)**

### Part I
### Introduction

#### i. The aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action

The aim of IWYLG is to implement the objective of 1975 International Women's Year: Equality, Development and Peace, advocated by the United Nations. Since its foundation in 1975 (Japan), IWYLG has been dealing with important issues on gender-equality, has often written letters to and laid issues before the Government, local governments, political parties and relevant bodies, and held consultations with women parliamentarians. It has coherently demanded that successive prime ministers adopt policies to promote gender-equality and strengthen institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women.

IWYLG sent its representatives as advisers to the Japanese delegations to the 4th World Conference on Women in 1995, Beijing (China), the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly from the 5 to 9 of June 2000 (New York, United States of America), entitled "Women 2000: Gender-equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century", and the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (Beijing + 10), from 28 February to 11 March 2005, New York (United States of America).

IWYLG is actively participating in United Nations conferences and meetings or following them through the Internet. The organization always translates every

important official documents, agreed conclusions and resolutions adopted by those conferences and meetings into Japanese and distributes them among the affiliates of the organization. IWYLG also sends the organization's representative to public hearings on United Nations conferences and meetings held by the Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office to report on them.

## Part II
## Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

### i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

In 2002, the organization's representatives attended the 46th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in New York (United States of America) from 4 to 15 March as observers.

The organization's representative attended the 2nd World Congress on Ageing held in Madrid (Spain) from 9 to 12 April as observers. At a workshop of the Non Governmental Organization (NGO) Forum prior to the Congress, the organization's representative presented her paper on "Long-term Care Insurance System in Japan".

The organization's representatives attended the 4th Preparatory Committee of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Bali (Indonesia) from 27 May to 7 June as observers.

The organization's coordinator of International Relations attended the 57th General Assembly Third Committee meetings held in New York (United States of America) from 30 September to 21 November as Alternate Representative of the Government of Japan. She made four statements during the meetings: on Social Development, Women, Children, and Racism.

In 2003, the organization's representatives attended the 47th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in New York (United States of America) from 3 to 14 March as observers.

The organization's Coordinator of International Relations attended the 58th General Assembly Third Committee meetings held in New York (United States of America) from 6 October to 21 November as Alternate Representative of the Government of Japan. She made two statements during the meetings, on Women and Children.

In 2004, the organization's representatives attended the 48th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in New York (United States of America) from 1 to 12 March as observers.

The organization's representatives attended United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) high-level meetings held in Bangkok (Thailand) in preparation for Beijing + 10 from 5 to 12 September as an adviser to the Japanese delegation and observers.

In 2005, the organization's coordinators attended the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (Beijing + 10) held in New York (United States of America) from 28 February to 11 March as advisers to the Japanese

government delegation. The organization's representatives also attended the meetings as observers.

The organization's representatives attended the 58th Annual meeting of the Department of Public Information on NGO (DPI/NGO) held in New York (United States of America) on 7 to 9 September.

The organization held the 2005 Japan Women's Convention in Tokyo (Japan) on 26 November, and celebrated the 30th anniversary of the organization. After State Minister in Charge of Measures for Declining Birthrate and Gender Equality made a guest address, Dr. Kyung-wha Kang, Chairperson, made a keynote address on "Women's Responsibility in the International Community: Toward Peace and Gender Equality." The organization's coordinators reported on domestic activities and international activities of the organization. A slide show entitled "Wild Flowers Continue to Bloom" introduced the 30 years' history of IWYLG to 900 participants at the end of the morning session. In the afternoon a panel discussion, entitled "Creating a Gender-equal Society," was held with three prominent women as panelists. After chairpersons of the organization's six committees announced the goals of activities for 2005-2010, three resolutions and a declaration were adopted. The organization published a report on the Convention, "Creating a Gender-Equal and Peaceful Society" in both English and Japanese.

## 4. INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization

**(Special Consultative Status granted in 2002)**

### Part I
### Introduction. Aims and purposes of the organization

INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization is an independent no-profit humanitarian organization committed to assist the victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts. INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization goals are to give immediate response to humanitarian crisis by bringing relief to victims of armed conflicts and any other natural or man-made disaster, ensuring basic living conditions, to begin, in parallel with relief interventions, to lay the ground for return to stability, reconstruction and development and to activate, stimulate, mobilize the Italian society, in order to develop and spread the culture of international solidarity.

### Part II
### Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

#### i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

**1. Annual meetings**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Pre-Executive Committee (Pre-Excom) meetings, in September in Geneva (Switzerland) with worldwide Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) to prepare the High Commissioner's Executive Committee meeting. INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid

Organization is attending the plenary as well as the side meetings dealing with the countries or the themes which are part of its mandate.

Executive Committee of the High Commissioner for Refugees in October, Geneva, Switzerland. The Pre-Excom is followed by the annual Executive Committee meeting which covers one week gathering dealing with the biannual assistance and protection program of the Refugee Agency. INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization is participating to the exercise in close collaboration with other humanitarian agencies.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), March and April, Geneva, Switzerland. INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization used to attend these meetings advocating for the issues directly linked with its own mandate. INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization will continue to follow the meetings of the new body which has replaced the former Commission on Human Rights.

Standing Committee meetings of the High Commissioner, Geneva, Switzerland. From time to time the Agenda includes an assessment of the programs as implemented by the NGOs. INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization as well as the NGOs based in Geneva (Switzerland) attend the meetings and give their oral contribution to the debate.

**2. Monthly meetings**

Inter Agency Standing Committee-NGOs meetings, Geneva, Switzerland. INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization is regularly and actively attending these meetings since they are very much field oriented.

NGOs Liaison Unit of the UNCHR, Geneva, Switzerland. The meetings focus on the most delicate field situations in respect to the refugees or Internally Displaced Persons (IDP). INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization takes the floor to express satisfaction or concern over the way in which the partnership is concretely tested in the field operations.

**3. Weekly meetings**

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) meetings every Wednesday, Geneva, Switzerland. INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization is attending the meetings as far as the subject is of direct interest to its field operations, which is normally the case.

**(ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**

**With support and collaboration of UNHCR:**

Afghanistan: Care and maintenance of refugees and asylum seekers, assistance to IDPs, capacity building for Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVI) (2005). Shelter supply, income generating activities and district profiling (2002).

Angola: Repatriation and reintegration of Angolan refugees (2003-2005); Assistance to the Congolese refugees in the reintegration process (2003).

Burundi: settling in of Burundies repatriated and humanitarian aid to Congoleses refugees (2002).

Chad: Care and maintenance of Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad; Camps construction, water supply, distribution system and camp management (2004-2005).

Iraq: Return, reintegration and protection assistance for Iraqi refugees (2004-2005).

Pakistan: Emergency response to earthquake (2005); Care and maintenance of Afghan Refugees in camps (2004-2002); Water supply and local community involvement in favour of the refugees (2003). Mine awareness (2002).

Serbia and Montenegro: Care and maintenance assistance to refugees, IDP and asylum seekers and local settlement/self reliance assistance. Maintenance of a database of refugees and IDP (2003-2005).

Sudan: Multi-sectorial community-based rehabilitation projects, community centres; profiling of areas of potential return of IDP and returnees in the Western Darfur (2004-2005).

**With support and collaboration of UNICEF:**

Angola: Mine risk education (2005).

Bosnia and Herzegovina: community liaison and mine risk education activities (2004-2005).

Chad: protection, psychosocial support for children and young refugees (2005).

Iraq: Capacity building and mine risk education; child friendly spaces (2004-2005).

Liberia: Relief assistance to displaced people (2003).

Somalia: support to Jowhar hospital (2003-2005).

Sudan: emergency education project in favour of war affected children, water supply and sanitation programme in west Darfur (2005).

Eritrea: water and sanitation intervention (2002).

**With support and collaboration of United Nations Mine Action Centre (UNMAS):**

Afghanistan: Capacity building in management of mine action services in support of reconstruction and Mine Risk Education (2003/2005).

Iraq: Emergency mine action and capacity building (2004-2005).

**With support and collaboration of OCHA:**

Angola: Emergency de-mining and Water and Sanitation intervention (2002/2004) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNOPS.

Afghanistan: Rehabilitation of Khair Khana hospital in Kabul in 2002.

**(iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)**

Major actions have been the following:

**Goal 1**: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger/Target 2

Nutrition training for 4340 mothers

Seeds, food distribution and relevant training in refugees camp for 45400 people

**Goal 2**: Achieve universal primary education/Target 3

Construction of 500 classrooms (temporary/permanent)

Education course for 32000 children (5-11)

**Goal 3**: Promote gender equality and empower women/Target 4

Realization of community women centers serving 125000 women

**Goal 4**: Reduce child mortality/Target 5

Vaccination campaigns involving: 73400 children under 5

**Goal 5**: Improve Maternal Health/Target 6

Vaccination campaigns involving: 13500 pregnant women

Assistance to around 7000 women in health center

**Goal 6**: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Distribution of 12000 mosquito nets

**Goal 7**: Ensure environmental sustainability/Target 10

Realization of 750 water points (water supply systems, traditional shallow wells boreholes)

Construction of 24700 latrines in refugees/IDPs camps

## 5. Rainforest Foundation UK

**(Consultative status since 2002)**

### Part I
### Introduction

**i. Aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action**

The mission statement of the United Kingdom Rainforest Foundation (RF UK) is to support indigenous peoples and traditional populations of the world's rainforests in their efforts to protect their environment and fulfil their rights. The Foundation is equally concerned with human rights and the environment and works in partnership with local organisations and indigenous rainforest communities. We presently support initiatives in Africa and South America.

The RF UK was established in 1989 following an appeal from the Kayapo people, eastern Amazonia, to assist them in resisting threats to their traditional rainforest lands. The RF UK is an autonomous body with 'sister' organisations in the United States of America, Norway, Austria and Japan.

## Part II

### (i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

Since 2003 the Rainforest Foundation has been lobbying the British Government to recognise the collective rights of indigenous peoples and to sign on to the United Nations Draft Declaration on Indigenous Peoples during.

Signature of joint statement 'Can a legally binding agreement for forests make a difference? Sent to the United Nations Forum on Forests in September 2004.

The United Nations Forum on Forests 16th to 27th May 2005, Geneva (Switzerland). The Rainforest Foundation attended the Forum on Forests, and lobbied for increased action to recognise indigenous and forest communities' rights in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

### (ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Rainforest Foundation has been cooperating closely with the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights to support the government and civil society organisations in the Republic of the Congo to develop a new law to protect the rights of indigenous peoples. This has involved collaborating closely over the organisation of workshops held in Brazzaville in May and July 2006. Exchanging comments on draft texts and suggesting amendments so that the law meets international standards. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples passed on 29th June 2006 was a key text supporting this process. The Rainforest Foundation is also supporting a longer term process in which local organisations have developed a deeper understanding of international indigenous rights and done research with communities to assess the extent to which they are respected in the Republic of the Congo.

The Rainforest Foundation through its partner organisation the "*Observatoire Congolais des Droits de l'Homme*" has been in discussions with UNICEF about local efforts to protect indigenous people in the Republic of the Congo.

### (iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Our programme of work links directly to the Millennium Development Goal #7, to ensure environmental sustainability. Specifically we work to target one to: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources. Our work also relates to MDG #1 to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Since 2002 the Rainforest Foundation has been developing its work in the Congo Basin region where many national and regional policies threaten hopes for real sustainable development, the livelihoods of millions of forest dependant peoples and the integrity of the tropical forest ecosystems (the second largest in the world after the Amazon).

The following actions have been undertaken:

- Lobbying the governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Cameroon and international agencies such as the World Bank to ensure that forest reform respects the rights of indigenous and local communities.
- Supporting 4 civil society organisations in Democratic Republic of the Congo to investigate illegal logging by timber companies, and to lobby for illegal logging concessions to be cancelled.
- Supporting civil society organisations in Cameroon to help 11 communities to manage their own forests, by providing legal advice through Cameroonian lawyers based in communities. We also support communities will organisational and financial resources to develop effective plans to manage the forests.
- Supporting communities to claim the forest taxes which are rightfully theirs under Cameroonian law.
- Supporting 22 indigenous communities in Eastern DRC to secure their livelihoods through livestock husbandry, income generation and more sustainable agricultural production.

The Rainforest Foundation supported the Congolese Observatory for Human Rights and the Association for Indigenous People of Congo (APAC) to celebrate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in the Republic of the Congo. They have presentations from indigenous peoples on issues around their rights, and launched a analysis report on the situation of indigenous peoples in Republic of the Congo.

The Rainforest Foundation has been limited in its participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council because available human and financial resources have been targeted at developing programmes in Central Africa working with NGOs and governments to secure indigenous rights and the survival of the second largest rainforest in the world.

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### Note by the Secretary-General

**Addendum**

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## 1. THE BECKET FUND FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

**(General Consultative Status granted in 2002)**

**PART I: Purpose and activities**

The Becket Fund is a nonpartisan, interfaith, public interest law firm dedicated to protecting the free expression of all religious traditions. We believe the exercise of conscience is a fundamental human right, and must be preserved for all. The Becket Fund's clients have included Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, and Zoroastrians. The Becket Institute, The Becket Fund's academic arm, moved to Rome in 2005. It was formerly hosted by St. Hughes College, Oxford University, in the United Kingdom. In October 2006, Angela C. Wu replaced Emilie Kao as the Director of International Advocacy and the primary liaison for international affairs. In 2002-2005, there have been no other significant administrative or governance changes at The Becket Fund.

**PART II: Activities in the current reporting period**

**A. Contributions to United Nations bodies** (United Nations Commission on Human Rights Interventions and Parallel Sessions)

1. The Becket Fund delivered the following interventions at the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights ("UNCHR") in Geneva, Switzerland:

i. March 31, 2005 statement, Untitled. The Becket Fund addressed emerging trends in Sri Lanka regarding the consideration of anti-conversion legislation. Specifically, the intervention addressed the lack of tolerance prevalent in the Radical Theravada Buddhist political movement and its proposed adoption of anti-conversion legislation as a response to other religions in Sri Lanka.

ii. March 23, 2005 statement, Untitled. The Becket Fund addressed the UNHCR on Turkey's ban of the Muslim headscarf. The Becket Fund sponsored the participation of former Turkish Parliamentarian Merve Kavakci at the session.

iii. April 5, 2005 statement, Untitled. Representing over 3,000 Muslims and the Imam of the Juma Mosque (Baku, Azerbaijan), The Becket Fund advocated against the **repression of the Juma Mosque in Azerbaijan**.

iv. April 8, 2005 statement, Untitled. The Becket Fund addressed issues affecting governments around the world regarding **the right of the child to express religious belief in the classroom**. The Becket Fund commented on England's Court of Appeal decision that a high-school student, Shabina Begum, may express her religious belief by wearing a jilbab, a full-length Muslim gown to class. It contrasted that situation to France's decision, in the fall of 2004, to implement a prohibition on religious clothing that forbids children from symbols such as the turban, the yarmulke, the cross, and the headscarf to school.

v. April 14, 2005 statement, Untitled. The Becket Fund discussed Chapter 16, section 8 of **Sweden's criminal code, which prohibits the expression of "disrespect" towards favored minority groups**. The law carries a penalty of up to four years of imprisonment. It requires no evidence of incitement to violence and lacks any objective standard for identifying disrespect. The Becket Fund argued that its overbreadth would encourage censorship that will foster intolerance towards disfavored minorities.

**2.** During the 61st Commission Session in Geneva, Switzerland, The Becket Fund hosted a **parallel session** called "Stripping the Body of Belief: The Human Right to Wear Religious Dress" on March 24, 2005 at the Palais des Nations. The panel featured Muslim laywomen, including a former Turkish Parliament Member, prosecuted by the governments of France, Turkey, and Belgium for wearing religious dress and symbols.

**3.** At the United Nations **Working Group on Arbitrary Detention**, The Becket Fund filed several **petitions** on an anonymous basis on behalf of clients who were imprisoned for their religious beliefs. One of these clients' detention was declared arbitrary, and the client was subsequently released from prison. Two other petitions are currently pending.

## B. Activities undertaken in support of internationally agreed human rights goals

1. International litigation

i. At the European Court of Human Rights in 2004, The Becket Fund formally filed an application with the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in the case of "Juma Mosque," regarding an Islamic mosque that was expelled in the city of Baku in Azerbaijan.

ii. In the Swedish domestic courts, The Becket Fund worked in 2005 with local counsel to litigate a case on behalf of a pastor who was convicted on criminal charges after preaching a sermon that cited Biblical texts on homosexuality. The Becket Fund's brief to the court explained that Pastor Green's sermon fell squarely within Article 18's protection of the "freedom . . . in community with others . . . to manifest his religion or belief in . . . teaching." His conviction has since been vacated by Sweden's highest court.

iii. With the Sri Lankan government, The Becket Fund has advocated and provided legal arguments regarding its severe anti-conversion laws.

Related activities that The Becket Fund hosted and conducted include:

• a fact-finding mission July 5-9, 2004 in which lawyers from The Becket Fund met with NGO representatives, constitutional lawyers, a member of the Sri Lankan Parliament, and US and British Embassy staff in Sri Lanka. The Becket Fund also documented acts of violence against religious minorities.

• a roundtable discussion titled "Religious Freedom in Sri Lanka" on November 19, 2004 at the Sri Lankan Embassy in Washington, DC, USA. Panelists included two former United States Ambassadors, a Professor from University of Virginia, and representatives from the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy, the United States Department of State, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. In attendance was the Ambassador from Sri Lanka to the United States.

• a congressional briefing titled "Congressional Briefing on Religious Freedom in Sri Lanka" on how religious persecution in Sri Lanka was affecting tsunami relief efforts. Among those in attendance were ten United States Senators and Representatives, and representatives from Amnesty International, the United States Department of State, and the United Nations.

2. Public education

The Becket Fund created a traveling **exhibit** titled "Body of Belief" featuring a collection of banned religious clothing and other distinctive symbols, including the headscarf, yarmulke, cross, Sikh turban, and tie. The exhibit was inaugurated in Geneva at the 61st session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission on March 23, 2005 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva, Switzerland. It was also shown in New York, USA on May 5, 2005 and Washington, DC, USA, at The Capitol Building from October 24-28, 2005. The interactive, multimedia exhibit seeks to engage individuals by including changing artifacts and inviting individuals who have been terminated from their places of work and discriminated against, punished, and ostracized for wearing religious symbols.

3. Government relations

The Becket Fund attends and monitors closely the activities of the United States Department of State in regard to the UNHRC, contributes actively and monitors the annual release of the Department of State's human rights report and international religious freedom reports; works closely with the United States Committee on International Religious Freedom, and works with the United States Congressional Human Rights Caucus. The Becket Fund attended meetings in Washington, D.C. with representatives from these bodies in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

4. Academia

i. In March 21-22, 2002, The Becket Fund hosted a conference entitled "Truth and Freedom," in Washington, D.C., the fourth in a series of international conferences on the theme of religious liberty. The conference was designed to foster dialogue among Muslims, Jews and Christians on the possibility of a common understanding of religious liberty, a particularly timely and urgent topic since the events of September 11.

ii. In December 5-10, 2005, The Becket Fund co-hosted a conference with its academic institute in Rome, Italy. The conference, entitled "Religious Liberty and Relativism," produced a collection

of papers of the same title exploring the topic of religious liberty and emerging international secularist trends.

iii. Representatives from the Becket Fund have spoken at dozens of conferences and participated in roundtable discussions and consultations with universities and NGOs in several countries, and published widely on religious freedom issues, including in Jerusalem, Jordan, the United States, Rome, and South Asia. For example, in 2003, Stephen G. Post published Human Nature and the Freedom of Public Religious Expression, a book he researched and wrote during his time as a visiting scholar at the Becket Institute. And in December 12, 2005, the *Wall Street Journal*(Asian Print Edition) printed an opinion piece titled "Fearing Christmas in Sri Lanka" by a Becket Fund attorney Roger Severino on religious liberty in Sri Lanka.

## 2. CARE (CHRISTIAN ACTION, RESEARCH & EDUCATION)

**Special Consultative Status granted in 2002**

**Part I: Introduction**

**Aims and Purposes of the Organization:** Social Service and Counselling Provision at the local level in the UK; social policy research & lobbying (Family & Child Policy, Relationship Development, Education, Bioethics etc.), public education and communication in the above fields.

Geographical distribution of members is predominantly in the United Kingdom with smaller numbers spread throughout the countries of Europe and globally.

**Part II: Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

**i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.**

During the reporting period, 2002-2005, the CARE (Christian Action, Research & Education) representatives attended and lobbied for the following meetings:

1. First Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings, 25th February – 1st March 2002, New York.

2. Commission on the Status of Women (46th Session), 4th - 15th March 2002, New York.

3. The World Summit on Sustainable Development, 26th August – 4th September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa.

4. Working Group of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings, 23rd – 27th September 2002, New York.

5. Commission on the Status of Women (47th Session), 3rd – 14th March 2003, New York.

6. Working Group of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on an International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings, 29th September – 3rd October 2003, New York.

7. The Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly discussions on an International Convention against Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings, 20th and 21st October 2003, New York.

8. Working Group for the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, 5th–16th January 2004, New York.

9. Commission on the Status of Women (48th Session), 1st – 12th March 2004, New York.

10. United Nations Commission on Human Rights (60th Session), 15th March – 23rd April 2004, Geneva, Switzerland.

11. The Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (agenda item entitled "international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings"), 20th and 21st October 2004, New York.

12. The Working Group of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on the proposed United Nations Human Cloning Convention, 14th, 15th and 18th February 2005, New York.

13. Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. 25th January-4th February 2005. New York.

14. Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcome Document of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly, 28th February – 8th March 2005, New York.

15. United Nations Commission on Human Rights (61st Session), 14th March – 22nd April 2005, Geneva, Switzerland.

16. Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, 1st – 12th August 2005, New York.

## 3. MARYKNOLL FATHERS AND BROTHERS

**Special consultative status granted 1999**

**Introduction: Aims and purposes of the organization**

Since the last Quadrennial Report, the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers' Non Governmental Organization (NGO), as the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America (CFMSA), has continued its Mission to respond worldwide to the needs of people experiencing increasing poverty, violence, and both human and ecological degradation. Along with previous areas of collaboration with civil society, Church and other institutions new emphasis and new areas include: Children and youth, but now with *street gang members, rescue & rehabilitation, & unemployed...* Protection & assistance of increasing *migrants, and internally displaced...* A new emphasis on E*cology & Climate Change* with *awareness/education, participation in local & international efforts...* A new health threat of HIV/AIDS *with care & approach through community & clinics...*

Increased human rights efforts with *immigrant & Indigenous, youth & elders...* In particular efforts with *destruction & loss of ancestral lands, displacement, self-sufficiency of* Indigenous peoples.

Another area of increasing attention: peace and reconciliation *efforts and training.* New issues of involvement in sustainable development is promoting local *ecological agricultural practices.*

**Membership and work**

The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, has at present, 490 members, a decrease of almost 90 members. While one area in Africa, another in the Middle East and 2 in Latin America are now closed, the members continue to serve in the previous countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America Europe and North America. In every Region, their work is enabled by Maryknoll Associates, Affiliate Volunteers, civil society and Non Governmental Organizations. Everywhere, there has been a conscious effort to assist locally, in fulfilling the *United Nations' Millennium Development Goals* as is spelled out in the paragraph above.

**Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings**

The Maryknoll Fathers & Bothers, as a Non Governmental Organization continues to work closely with the Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic NGO. Together they closely following the ECOSOC yearly agendas, and, as members of the Conference on Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) and of Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS). They have maintained membership in the NGO Committee on Disarmament, the Ecumenical Working Group for the United Nations, the North American Civil Society for United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) & the NGO Committee on Social Development, the Committee on Financing for

Development, Africa Working Group, Earth Values Caucus, Indigenous Working Groups, the Women's Caucus, the Working Group on HIV/AIDS. In particular the Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers have brought representatives from southern regions to participate in the following UN conferences, meetings and programs and have co-sponsored Side Events at these Conferences:

**Commission on Sustainable Development**

**2002:** Second Summit Preparatory Committee (**PREPCOM** 2) 28 January-8 February 2002 New York: [Presented a Side Event: *Sustainable Indigenous Agricultural Practices*]

**2003**: CSD 11 + April 28-May 9: Side event – UN Headquarters, New York: [Forum: Side-Event: "*Promoting an Integrated Approach to Rural Development...*" Speaker: Mr. Tom Bamat ]

[Side Event: Maryknoll Aids Task Force: "*Sustainable Development & HIV/AIDS*" ]

**2004**: CSD 12 + April 14-30: UN Headquarters, New York [With Earth Values Caucus presented a day long event: *Water as a Global Common*]

**2005:** CSD 13: April 11-22, UN Headquarters, New York: [With Earth Values Caucus-Documentary on Water, a Caucus Meeting Presentation 18/4/05]

Commission on the Status of Women: *in cooperation with the Maryknoll Sisters NGO*

2003: 47th Session March 3-14, 2003: UN Headquarters, New York, USA: [Side Event: March 12

Maryknoll Aids Force- Film Screening: *Coming to Say Goodbye*]

2004: 48th Session March 1-12, 2004: UN Headquarters, New York, USA [Role of Men & Boys: Sponsored a Young Man from El Salvador to share his experience in El Salvador.]

2005: 49th Session February 28-March 11, 2005: UN Headquarters, New York USA: [Sponsored two Women from Brazil-Panel on: *Effects of Racism on Women* - March 2]

Permanent Forum on Indigenous-(UNFPII): *In solidarity with Indigenous Peoples*

2003: 2nd Session, 11-23 May 2003: United Nations Headquarters, New York

2004: 3rd Session, May 10-21, 2004: UN Headquarters, New York, USA: [With UNICEF-Working Group & Maryknoll Sisters NGO sponsored 2 Indigenous Women (1 from Bolivia / 1 from Mexico & 1 Child who presented her statement to the Forum: O*n the Needs and Rights of Indigenous Girls*]

Conferences on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

2004: June 14-25, UN Headquarters, New York with International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) at Open Ended Working Group Session on Tracing Illicit: [Statement on *Arming Street Gangs-El Salvador Case* presented under auspices of International Action Network on Small Arms]... 2005: May 2-27 Review Conference on the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at UN New York: Cooperated with the Mayors for Peace Delegation.

Conferences on Financing for Development

2002: International Conference on Financing for Development-Monterey Mexico (Participated in Roundtables) 2003: UN High Level General Assembly Dialogue on Financing for Development and Related Public Hearings (FfD) October 28-30, at the United Nations Headquarters, N.Y. USA

2004: April 26, at the United Nation Headquarters, New York: ECOSOC/Bretton Woods Institutions (BWI) and World Trade Organization (WTO) High level Roundtables (FfD) 2005: May 18-19, UN Headquarters, N.Y: 2nd UN High Level GA Dialogue on Financing for Development (FFD) Multi-Stakeholder Consultations on Systemic Issues [with Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility]

**Cooperation with UN Bodies & Specialized Agencies / Other relevant activities**
**United Nations Environmental Program ( UNEP)**

2004: Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF), March 2004, Jeju, S. Korea Global Civil Society Forum (participated as part of the Vatican Delegation)

Framework Convention for Climate Change – (FCCC)

2003: FCCC: Conference of the Parties (COP 9) in Milan, Italy / 2004: FCCC-Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) – Bonn, Germany / 2005: Conference of the Parties (COP 11) in Montreal Canada November 28 December 9.

Informal High Level Hearings of the GA with Non-Governmental & Civil Society Organizations and the Private sector. 2005 23-24 June: …Sponsored a woman from Guatemala as spokesperson.

United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF): In 2004, a member assisted in writing the section on the Role of Religions for the booklet UNICEF was preparing on the trafficking of children.

UN Habitat Office in Nairobi, there was an interaction with Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers NGO regarding upgrading of Kibera slum in Nairobi 2004-2005

Written/Oral Statements: Our files have been lost, but statements were submitted from 2002 to 2005 on: prevention of trafficking of women; and in Geneva at the High Commission on Human

Rights on behalf of Children's Rights in the Context of War, and another urging a Total Ban on the Death Penalty, other statements made are recorded in Commission reports, above.

**Maryknoll publications - Remain the same as Previous Report, but with additions/emphasis:**

New: Maryknoll Videos: *Coming to Say Goodbye* - HIV/AIDS in Africa

New: Maryknoll Web Sites: www.maryknollogc.org

Of Note: Work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies are often highlighted in: *Maryknoll Magazine* - circulation of 400,000 / Spanish Edition - circulation of 60,000...World Watch section / Radio Program: Voices of Our World heard on 100 radio stations / NewsNotes / and more than six Special Papers and Publications on UN issues.

## 4. UNITED NATIONS WATCH

**Special Consultative Status granted in 2002**

Part I

With the aims of promoting the principles of the UN Charter, furthering knowledge of the UN's activities, and advancing human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, United Nations Watch (UN Watch) follows, disseminates information about, and where appropriate offers constructive comment on, the work of various UN bodies. UN Watch attends and participates in UN meetings, liaises with other NGOs in preparation for UN events, and produces a regular newsletter, and sometimes other writings, on UN-related news and events. UN Watch also fosters understanding of the UN system through its student seminars and fellowship and internship programs.

UN Watch currently has 110 members, geographically distributed as follows: 56% from Europe, 38% from North America, and 4% from Oceania. UN Watch's newsletter on UN issues now reaches nearly 5,000 subscribers around the world.

UN Watch continues to be funded by private individual donations and charitable foundations.

Part II

During the reporting period, UN Watch participated actively in the following UN sessions:

- **Commission on Human Rights (CHR), 59th Session, 17 March- 25 April 2003, Geneva**

- Oral Statements : The Right to Self-Determination, 24 March

- Oral Statements : Human Rights Violations in Occupied Arab Territories, 31 March

- Oral statements :Violations of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 2 April

- **CHR, 60th Session, 15 March-23 April 2004, Geneva**

- Oral Statement, Human Rights Violations in Occupied Arab Territories, March 24

- Oral Statement, Civil and Political Rights, April 2

- **CHR, 61st Session, 14 March-22 April, Geneva**

    - Oral statements:

- *Right of Peoples to Self Determination*, March 18, 2005

- *Human Rights Violations in Occupied Arab Territories*, March 23, 2005 (Joint statement with NGOs among others Freedom House, Droits et Démocratie/Rights & Democracy, Association for Democratic Initiatives, Liberal International, World Information Transfer, and International Association of Educators for World Peace)

- Civil and Political Rights, April 4, 2005

- Rights of the Child, April 11, 2005

- Effective Functioning of Human Rights Mechanisms, April 19, 2005

    - Written Statements: Right of Peoples to Self Determination, Violations of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Effective Functioning of Human Rights Mechanisms , Civil and Political Rights

    - UN Watch side events

- Panel Discussion on the United Nations and the Middle East, March 24, 2005. Panelists: Senator Rudy Boschwitz, Head of U.S. Delegation; Per Ahlmark, author, columnist and former Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden; Ilka Schröder, former Member of the European Parliament; Hillel Neuer, Executive Director, UN Watch. Moderator: Ambassador Alfred E. Moses, Chair, UN Watch.

- Panel Discussion on Proposals to Reform the Commission on Human Rights, April 4, 2005. Panelists: Ambassador Mary Whelan of Ireland; Deirdre Kent, CHR Rapporteur and Counsellor, Mission of Canada; Professor Stephen Toope, Chair of Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances; Asma Jahangir, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Moderator: Hillel Neuer, UN Watch Executive Director

- **CHR, 61st Session, Informal Consultations on the implementation of the Secretary-General's proposed reforms, 20 June 2005, Geneva**
    - Oral Statements :

- Support for the Secretary-General's Proposed Human Rights Council, June 20, 2005

- Civil Society Proposal for the Human Rights Council, November 22, 2005 (Joint Statement with NGOs among others, Arab Organization for Human Rights, Center for Development of International Law, International Council of Women, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, International League for Human Rights )

- **Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 56th Session, 26 July-13 August 2004, Geneva**

Oral Statements: *Women and Human Rights*, August 6, 2004; *Administration of Justice, Democracy and the Rule of Law*, August 10, 2004

- **Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 57th Session, 25 July-12 August 2005, Geneva**
    - Oral Statement, *Administration of Justice, Rule of Law and Democracy*, August 2, 2005 (Joint Statement with NGOs among others African Services Committee, Associated Country Women of the World, International Federation of Social Workers, International Council of Jewish Women, Volunteerism Organization For Women Education and Development, and World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations)
    - Written Statement, Prevention of Discrimination, Organization of Work

- **Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 66th Session, 21st February-11 March 2005, Geneva:**

Oral Statement, Thematic Discussion on Prevention of Genocide, February 28, 2005

- **Working Group on Minorities, 11th Session, 30 May-3 June 2005, Geneva**

Oral statement, Violations of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Minorities, June 1, 2005

UN Watch also organized periodic, one- or two-day seminars at which American and European university students learned about the UN system from UN, member-state, and NGO representatives. For example, on November 11, 2005, a UN Watch seminar in Geneva for students from Columbia University's program in Paris featured a tour of the Palais des Nations, a visit to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, attendance at a meeting of the Committee

Against Torture (CAT), and briefings from the CAT's Vice Chair, as well as from human rights and humanitarian officers from the European Commission and the British Mission. In addition, UN Watch's fellowship and intern programs have allowed a number of young people from around the world to spend several months to one year in Geneva working closely with the UN.

UN Watch also met with UN officials, as well as with member-state representatives. These meetings provided an opportunity for friendly dialogue on issues within UN Watch's areas of activity.

In December 2005, UN Watch was granted Associate Status by the UN Department of Public Information.

## 5. WOMEN'S INTERCULTURAL NETWORK -WIN

**Special Consultative Status granted in 1998**

The Women's Intercultural Network -WIN - was incorporated in 1994 to **'connect women and girls across cultures for collective action on common concerns.'** Our vision continues to be that of ensuring that the voices of all women and girls are heard in public forums and to provide opportunities and venues for the voices of women who have not been able to speak for themselves.

Ten years ago, 1995, along with 40,000 other delegates who attended the 4th United Nations Conference on Women, WIN took up the challenge to bring the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) to the grassroots of California for implementation - and agreed to "keep on moving forward" – our charge from the Beijing Conference. We formed the California Women's Agenda – CAWA, to carry out WIN's mission and the mission of the BPFA – the global women's agenda. Now a million California girls and women are connecting on the ground and on the internet for collective action on the BPFA. We continue to use the 12 critical concerns from the BPFA as our framework for advocacy on women's issues – locally, statewide in California, nationally through US Women Connect and globally with our "Circles" in Uganda, Afghanistan and Japan.

CAWA has been honing its organizing and advocacy model since 2002 with global leadership exchanges in Uganda, Japan and Afghanistan. We have learned and exchanged best practices and worst barriers to empowering women. We initiated *CALLING THE CIRCLE OF WOMEN FOR FULL PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY* and took the *CIRCLE* to Africa and Central Asia - Uganda and Afghanistan. We have brought Ugandan and Afghan women leaders to CAWA networks throughout California in 2002, 2003, 2004 and in August, 2005, we did full *CIRCLE* when two young women from Uganda, serving as WIN Board members, returned to California. They met with CAWA networks in Los Angeles, San Diego, Ventura, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Marin, Napa, and San Francisco counties. They spoke about our groundbreaking partnership project in Uganda that has granted acres of land to 100 homeless women who suffer from domestic abuse and HIV/AIDS. We helped them raise $17,600 to purchase the land for homeless Ugandan women. Those eight CAWA county coalitions, along with eight other CAWA county

partners, are now mobilizing around their local county priorities in California for action plans that would give grassroots input into a dynamic California Women's Agenda, a U.S. Women's Agenda and the United Nations women's global agenda (BPFA) that we take to the United Nations Commission on Women. We have sent delegates to the United Nations CSW meetings – including Beijing+5 and Beijing+10 meetings, and were significantly involved in March, 2005 in reaffirming the Beijing Platform for Action, by lobbying our United States government representatives who were hesitant in supporting the reaffirmation. One of our key volunteers is the national chair of the National Committee on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Many of our members serve on United Nations committees.

Launched as a project of the Women's Intercultural Network (WIN) specifically to monitor and implement the United Nations Beijing Platform for Action, The California Women's Agenda (CAWA) has since 2002:

• expanded our state network to more than 600 organizations

• developed a state task force for each of the issues identified in the Beijing Plan as crucial to improving the status of women.

• developed a county structure in seventeen areas of the state, guided by coordinators who mobilize local organizations in action networks on local issues

• built an on-line electronic information and action alert system for rapid communication to the task forces, county coordinators and key CAWA activists who then forward the material to their personal and constituent networks

• re-designed and updated our web site to make it an effective tool for accessing resources and facilitating interactive discussions and strategic planning on key issues, including Calling the Circles of women from the United States, Afghanistan, Uganda and Japan. Our web site now reaches out across the world to a huge and diverse audience of women in many countries – all working on the United Nations Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW.

• created a Legislators' Council that includes 41 State level and national level California women elected officials who have indicated their support of the principles of the Beijing Platform for Action

- hosted women leaders from Afghanistan, Uganda and Japan in leadership exchanges with CAWA activists and supporters in various communities throughout the state

• shared our organizing model and participated with activists in 9 other states (in 10 Federal regional hubs) to form United States Women Connect as an anchor for a United States women's agenda and national version of women's groups linked in a global network for women's rights.

CAWA's success has been possible, in spite of limited financial resources, because we operate largely as a "virtual network" relying on old and new technologies to expand our reach. E-groups and telephone conference calls have helped maintain contact among the dedicated volunteers who have accepted the responsibility for the task forces, the action alerts and the local organizing. Many also serve as CAWA representatives to coalitions that have formed to address racism, anti-immigrant policies, the plight of people with disabilities and the rights of indigenous people.

## THE BEIJING +5 REPORT AND PLAN OF ACTION: IN PRINT AND ON-LINE

Two hundred California activists convened at SBC Media Center in San Francisco on December 3rd and 4th, 2004, set priority issues and recommended strategies for the California Women's Action Agenda 2005 and beyond. They applauded legislators who spoke passionately about their districts and neighborhoods and heard panelists who brought expertise, experience and exciting new ideas to the table.

Participants agreed that health; education and economic equity are still priority issues for women and girls in California, that the full implementation of CEDAW in our cities and counties, the election of progressive women to local, state and federal offices and the support of progressive men can move the agenda forward. Following Health, Economic, Education and CEDAW panels, they drafted Policy Papers on-line for county activities and actions.

Parallel to base building in California, WIN co-founded US Women Connect which served as the anchor for monitoring US implementation of the BPFA, Beijing+5 in 2000. USWC was reconstituted in March, 2004 as a national action network of 10 states in 10 Federal regions that is growing to 50 State networks, on the ground and on the Internet, amplifying United States women's voices on critical issues of public policy. USWC will serve as the anchor for a United States Women's Agenda that will connect all 50 United States to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women's Beijing+15 report in 2010.

WIN and CAWA celebrated ten years of connecting women across cultures for collective action on local and global Platforms for Action in 2005. We thanked and honored the many women who had kept us moving forward locally and globally since 1995. We gave the *CIRCLE OF COURAGE AWARDS* to the tip of the iceberg of fearless, courageous, and progressive California. On accepting her award in December, 2004 Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, San Francisco, California, said, "*Setting an Action Agenda is essential. The status of women and the well being of our children and families are in great danger. We cannot afford to waste one minute in implementing an agenda that will protect and enhance the status of and opportunities for women and girls throughout California, the United States and the World.*" We accept Congresswoman Pelosi's challenge and intend to keep on moving forward locally, state wide, nationally and globally.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the United Nations to bring Equality, Development and Peace to all women and girls – our families, our countries and our world.

United Nations E/C.2/2007/2/Add.19

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## Note by the Secretary-General

**Addendum**

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## 1. FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL - FRC

**(Special Consultative Status granted in 2002)**

**Part I: Introduction**

**i. The aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action**

The Family Research Council (FRC) champions marriage and family as the foundation of civilization, the seedbed of virtue, and the wellspring of society. FRC shapes public debate and formulates public policy that values human life and upholds the institutions of marriage and the family.

**Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

**i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings**

Over the past four years, FRC has attended and participated in several United Nations conferences and meetings. Representatives of FRC attended meetings and provided materials and information to delegates on bioethics, children and families, and human rights issues. FRC's human rights counsel, William L. Saunders, Jr., was a delegate on the United States mission to the United Nations Special Session on Children in 2001-2002, New York (United States of America).

FRC's scholars have published work, given lectures and hosted meetings for international delegations which complemented the work accomplished at the United Nations. FRC has also reported to its constituents on its work as a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) in special consultative status with the United Nations.

**September 2002,** New York (United States of America) - General Assembly; Working Group of the Sixth Committee discussions on an international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings. Consulted with delegates and reported on the activities.

**15 May 2003**, New York (United States of America) – United Nations Celebration of the International Day of the Family. Attended meeting, consulted with delegates and reported on the activities.

**September - October 2003**, New York (United States of America) - General Assembly; Working Group of the Sixth Committee discussions on an international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings. Consulted with delegates and reported on the activities.

**December 2003**, New York (United States of America) - General Assembly Commencement of the International Year of the Family+10. Attended meetings and reported on the activities.

**May 2004**, New York (United States of America) - UN Celebration of the International Day of the Family. Attended meeting and reported on the activities. Hosted a side event for delegates where educational materials were distributed.

**23-25 August 2004**, Geneva (Switzerland) – The European Regional Dialogue for the Doha International Conference for the Family. On organizing committee for the meeting. Attended meeting and reported on the activities.

**October 2004**, New York (United States of America) - General Assembly; Sixth Committee discussions on an international convention against reproductive cloning of human beings. Consulted with delegates, provided educational materials and reported on the activities. Hosted two side events.

**October 2004** - The Asia Pacific Dialogue, The United Nations 10th Anniversary International Year of the Family, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). Attended meeting and presented papers.

**November 2004** - Intercultural Dialogue in Celebration of the 2004 International Year of the Family. On organizing committee of the Doha International Conference for the Family in Doha (Qatar) which produced the Doha Declaration on the Family. Attended meeting and presented papers.

**December 2004**, New York (United States of America) - General Assembly. Consulted with delegates on the results of the Doha Conference on the Family which led to the adoption of Doha Conference Outcomes by the General Assembly, including the Doha Declaration on the Family and adoption of Resolution A/59/L.21. FRC reported on the activities.

**March 2005**, New York (United States of America) - Commission on the Status of Women. Attended meeting, consulted with delegates and reported on the activities.

**8 March 2005**, New York (United States of America) – General Assembly. Reported on the adoption of General Assembly resolution 59/280, containing the United Nations Declaration on Human Cloning.

**27 February – 10 March 2006**, New York (United States of America) – Commission on the Status of Women. Consulted with delegates and reported on the activities. Co-hosted a side event for delegates with other NGOs.

## 2. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN VALUES (IAHV)

**Special consultative status since 2002**

**Part I – Introduction**

The International Association for Human Values (IAHV) is a charitable, educational organization committed to nurturing Human Values in society. Its ultimate goal is a society in which the lives of all people exemplify Human Values. Through a variety of educational activities and services, IAHV works to achieve peace, harmony and well-being throughout the world. In fostering Human Values, the IAHV works in collaboration with partners dedicated to similar goals, including United Nation organizations, governments, educational institutions, other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), business organizations and individuals.

What are **Human** Values?

Human Values are understood to be attitudes, norms and behaviours which represent the highest expression of human life. They are common to all cultures, religions and spiritual traditions, and include: A deep caring for all life, a responsible attitude toward the planet, non-violence, compassion and love, friendliness and cooperation, generosity and sharing, integrity, honesty and sincerity, moderation in one's activity, service, commitment and responsibility, peace, contentment and enthusiasm.

**Aims of the organisation**

**a.** Promote, support and carry out actions to raise public awareness of the key role of Human Values for social development,

**b**. Promote, support and carry out programs to develop and re-awaken Human Values in the individual, to inspire people to live Human Values in daily life, for example through voluntary, selfless service to society,

**c**. Develop and conduct educational programs intended to develop Human Values in particular programs that: encourage harmony, communication and dialogue between people of various religions, cultures and ethnic backgrounds; facilitate conflict resolution and conflict prevention; reduce hatred; develop a sense of Human Values in young people

**d**. Establish ties between educational institutions and assist them in promoting multi-cultural and multi-religious programs for the development of Human Values

**e**. Develop, support and execute social and humanitarian projects for all sectors of society around the world,

**f**. Carry out and support research projects,

**g**. Organize, promote and carry out local, national and international conferences and fora, including multi-cultural and multi-religious symposia.

The Association is a non-profit organization. The Association is neutral from a political and religious point of view.

**Part II – Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

**Millennium Development Goals**

**Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:**The 5H Programme – Health, Hygiene, Homes, Harmony in Diversity, Human Values. The aim is to raise standard of living in the world's most impoverished areas. The 5H Programme reached out (example India) to 26,000 villages (creating drainage systems, installing plumbing for sanitary systems, creating safe water through bore wells and rainwater harvesting methods); trained 44,188 village youth in the Youth Leadership Training Programme, conducted 72,000 Breath Water Sound Workshops benefiting more than 4.1 million people, conducted 15,660 health camps benefiting 1.5 million people, conducted 25,310 cleanliness campaigns,

**Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education:**Twenty primary rural schools have been built in rural areas of the state of Bihar/India, with about 1000 children; twelve primary rural schools have been built in the state of Tripura/India, with about 800 children; education, school uniforms, shoes, books and supplies, mid-day meals are provided free of cost; a mobile dispensary provides basic Medicare to children and adults in these tribal areas; **Tribal School Programme**, outskirts of Bangalore, to support the marginalized tribal population, 30 schools have been built and are run by our organization -for basic education, including education in health, hygiene, basic Human Values 10 tribal schools in Ghatshila/Jharkhand state, India.

**Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women: VISTA Organisation in Urugapura near Bangalore, India-**Vocational, medical and educational assistance to poor, young and rural girls; two hundred eighty rural girls from 20 villages around Bangalore, South Taluk, training in several vocations; two hundred fifty girls were helped to get jobs in several garment factories in Bangalore; thirty five girls were given sewing machines to start their self-employment ventures; two hundred fifty girls from the villages of Ramanagaram Taluk, were given vocational training in dressmaking and computer training; one hundred thirty girls from 21 villages around Bangalore, training in general tailoring, special dress making, stitching fancy-bags, school uniforms, typewriting, basic education; **Kwazulu Natal, South Africa-**Ohlange Bead Project-Three hundred women, Breath Water Sound Programme, greater sense of community, improved health, and a more positive attitude; **Kwa Dabeka Programme, Durban, South Africa-**Programme for low-income townships of Durban-One hundred fourteen young women, Breath Water Sound Programme, community empowerment, renovation of a dilapidated crèche-cum-pre-school for children, and constructing toilets; two hundred girls and women development of a food garden project.

**Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability: Chemical-free farming**: 5H Youth Leaders have made villagers (example India) in more than 7000 villages aware about the dangers of harmful pesticides and others chemicals. Methods of chemical free farming are being taught and implemented; **Watershed Management**: 5H Youth Leaders are educating the masses about the scarcity of water and means to harvest rain water. 50 villages in Southern India have adopted drip and sprinkler irrigation instead of flood irrigation. The 5H Programme built over 1,076 homes, 2500 toilets, and 800 biogas plants. Sri Sri Mobile Agricultural Institute, since 2003: Agricultural knowledge to the farmers' doorstep – Guidance in natural, effective practices, promoting chemical-free farming, biodiversity, bio-safety. Example-India, in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Karnataka, Kerala and Rajasthan – touched the lives of over 1.25 million farmers and 15,000 children that have been exposed to organic farming programmes, in cooperation with regional governments, faculties of agricultural universities and colleges; **Memorandum of Understanding with the Earth Charter Initiative:** Focuses on a general education campaign and on a campaign on the usage of hazardous chemicals and the effect on the environment.

**International conferences of the organization**: 2004, 4 – 6 February, International Women Conference, Bangalore, India; and 2006, 26 – 28 June, International Conference on Integrated Values Education, Bangalore; in collaboration with UNESCO.

**Participation in conferences:** Participation in the World Health Assembly; 2002, 2003, 2004; World Forum of Civil Society, Geneva, 14-19 July 2002; United Nation World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 26 Aug – 4 Sept 2002; United Nation Habitat, World Urban Forum, Barcelona, 9 – 26 September 2004.

**Initiatives of the organization-**Establishing the NGO Human Values Caucus at the United Nation Geneva; Establishing the NGO Spiritual Caucus at the United Nation Geneva; Initiator and Co-founder of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns at the United Nations **Geneva.**

*Committee of CONGO Conference of NGOs in consultative status with the United Nations.*

- 20 March 2002, Spiritual Education as a Human Right; 22 April 2002, The Geneva Spiritual Appeal – an Instrument for Peace?; Event during the Commission on Human Rights; 26 April 2002, Peace and Human Rights;16 May 2002, The Spiritual Dimension in Health, during the World Health Assembly; 17 July 2002, Religion, Spirituality and the Environment – a key component for Johannesburg; 18 July 2002, Intergenerational Cooperation, a vital backbone for our future; 21 September 2002, Peace Bell Ringing Ceremony, in honour of the International Day of Peace; 17 October 2002, The spiritual dimension in health: The Healing Breath; 19 November 2002, Spirituality and Global Public Policy, Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, World Bank Group; 21 May 2003, Paths to Health – Traditional Medicine and the spiritual dimension in health, during the World Health Assembly; 10 June 2003, Faith in Diplomacy – The UN and the Challenges of the 21st Century, Archie Mackenzie, British Diplomat; 8 September 2003, The Spirit of Human Security, event during the UN DPI/NGO in New York; 11 September 2003, Self-Realization - as a challenge to expand inner peace to humanity; 22 September 2003, Peace Bell Ringing Ceremony, in honour of the International Day of Peace; 29 March 2004, Philosophical and Spiritual Perspectives on the Decent Work Agenda and other UN instruments; 21 April 2004, Our contribution to the work of the United Nations; 20 May 2004, Paths to Health: The spiritual dimension in health, during the World Health Assembly.

## 3. MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

**(Special Consultative Status granted in 1998)**

1. Introduction

The Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is the relief, peace and development agency whose constituents are Mennonite and Brethren in Christ Churches in the United States and Canada. MCC was founded in 1920. It collaborates with other Mennonite, Christian, faith-based and secular nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and governmental organizations in seventy countries to overcome poverty, conflict, oppression, and natural disaster in partnership with local NGOs. The Mennonite Central Committee United Nations Office represents these commitments at the United Nations and carries United Nations commitments and concerns back to its constituency for education and action.

2. Participation

At the United Nations headquarters, MCC representatives consulted regularly with the Departments of Political Affairs (DPA), Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Department of Disarmament Affairs (DDA), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UNICEF, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR). Such consultations allowed MCC to seek and offer information in keeping with the purposes of MCC and the United Nations. Field staff representing MCC and our local partners were invited to New York to contribute immediate, local experience to these exchanges. New York staff participated in the regular briefings offered by the Department of Public Information (DPI) and the office of the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). MCC has also been active in a number of NGO committees: The Inter Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on the Humanitarian Consequences of Sanction (disbanded when the

sanctions on Iraq were lifted); The NGO Working Group on the Security Council, received regular briefings on that body's work by ambassadors of countries serving on the Security Council; The Central Africa Policy Forum, a monthly gathering of NGOs, United Nations Missions, United Nations agencies and departments and academics to explore policy options for peace in the Great Lakes and neighboring states in Central Africa; The Uganda Working Group; the DRC Working Group, on the Democratic Republic of Congo; and the NGO Working Group on Israel and Palestine.

3. Co-operation

MCC work in the United States and around the world is totally consistent with the ideals upon which the United Nations was founded, and fits very comfortably within the Millennium Development Goals adopted in the 2000 Summit. MCC staff and local partner organizations actively cooperate with United Nations agencies in numerous countries around the world. I will note a few, as illustrative of our collaborative efforts. In West Bengal, India, all of MCC emergency was coordinated through the Interagency Group (IAG) which included UNICEF and all of the other major emergency providers. During times of emergency response, IAG met at least weekly, and when required, on a daily basis. In Sudan, MCC was the lead agency for a Canadian Food grains Bank (CFGB) contribution of 3,000 MT of Split Peas and 3,000 MT of wheat to the World Food Programme (WFP). In the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (North Korea), in cooperation with CFGB and others MCC contributed (US) $2,323,783 worth of wheat, flour, rice, sugar and farm implements to the World Food Program. In Uganda MCC staff attended the bi-weekly UNOCHA briefings, and cooperated with the UNDP in granting financial support of the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative. MCC facilitated visits to New York by MCC Uganda staff and local partners, such as Bishop Baker MacLeord Orchola II and Archbishop John Baptist Odama for meetings with the NGO Uganda Working Group and interested United Nations staff. MCC cooperated with UNRWA in our work in relief, education and with children in the Occupied Territories of Palestine (areas under the administration of the Israeli government). MCC also organized educational tours to that region and we brought delegations to the UNOCHA office in Jerusalem for briefings. MCC supported two local NGOs: the Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights and the Zochrot Association, which seek to implement United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194. We have also supported the Stop the Wall Campaign, an initiative which has sought adherence to the International Court of Justice on the Separation Barrier. The MCC office in Amman, Jordan, has worked closely with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq regarding our relief efforts in Iraq. MCC local partner organization in Columbia, MENCOLDES, worked very closely with the UNHCR on Columbian Internally Displaced Persons.

4. Education

MCC educated its constituency and motivated its staff concerning the United Nations system and its programs in the following ways. The Mennonite Central Committee United Nations Liaison Office regularly hosted pastors or small groups from Mennonite congregations or educational institutions who came to New York and wanted to learn about the United Nations, and the work of MCC in relation to the United Nations. Each October, the United Nations Liaison Office sponsored a three-day seminar for approximately 40 graduate and undergraduate students and introduced them to the work of the United Nations and the intersection between the United Nations and its agencies, and MCC and other NGOs. On the Mennonite Central Committee web page, when a viewer selects "MCC World,"

in addition to being guided to the direct MCC programs in six continents and the Middle East, there is also a page for the MCC United Nations Liaison Office which contains documents, information and educational material related to the United Nations and the MCC work in relation to the United Nations. MCC United Nations Liaison staff regularly submitted articles to the Mennonite Weekly Review and other Mennonite and Brethren in Christ publications about issues raised at the United Nations, or the work of that office in relation to the United Nations.

## 4. OPEN FAMILY AUSTRALIA

**(Special Consultative status granted in 2002)**

**Part I: Introduction**

**i. The aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action**

Open Family Australia is an innovative Not-For-Profit organization working to improve the well-being and self worth of alienated and excluded street children by reaching them on their terms and their environment. Open Family has been working with "at-risk" young people since 1978. This association exists as an independent organization that is not formally aligned to any religious or political group. Open Family currently has operations and provided service in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Albury-Wodonga, Benalla, Wangaratta, Shepparton, Seymour and Geelong (Australia). It also has two international initiatives in Saigon, Vietnam (pilot project 2005) and Galle, Sri Lanka (aid response initiative).

Open Family Australia's core business is to provide extensive support to street children by utilising our specialist "street outreach work" methodology, which has been developed and refined in view of first hand experience and international research and best practice. The most salient feature of our methodology is the focus on offering relationships rather than services to street children, in light of the knowledge that caring, connectedness and belonging are essential for facilitating a successful exit from the streets and a reconnection with the community. Open Family Australia's mission is to improve the well-being and self-worth of alienated and excluded street children, through unconditional support with the view to reconnecting them with the community.

**Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

**i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings**

A six page document outlining Open Family's work identifies the World Health Organization's definition of street children.

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Co sponsor, 14th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm, "Strengthening Partnerships for a Safer Future", 6-10 April 2003, Chiang Mai (Thailand) - Mark Young presented a poster on "Engaging Young People with Substance Use Issues", outlining Open Family's street work model of assistance, as a commitment to engage with young people on their terms and in their environment.

3rd International Conference on Drugs and Young People, 13-15 May 2002, Sydney (Australia): Luta Nguyen, presented on "Countering Myths and Creating Opportunity: Working with Young Drug Users in Cabramatta".

Public Space and Young Peoples Conference, 2004, Sydney (Australia) - Carla Calvete, Luat Nguyen presented Open Family south west suburbs response ; "Working with At Risk and Homeless Young People and Their Rights to Public Space".

UNAIDS Co sponsor, 16th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm, 20-24 March 2005, Belfast (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) - Mark Young presented a symposium presentation entitled "Outreach as an effective tool in engaging with young people experiencing problematic drug use in rural Australia".

The 16th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm Belfast Film Festival (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 2005 – Showing of the movie "The Finished People". The main cast and scrip writers of The Finished People were young people who were engaged in Open Family's Cabramatta (Australia) program. The film was nominated for 3 Australian Film Industry Awards including Best Screenplay which was co-written by the young people. The film was Official Selection at the 2003 Montreal (Canada) Film Festival.

In 2005, in Vietnam, Richard Tregear Open Family Streetworker had meetings with Mr. Tran Cong Binh the Assistant Project Officer Child Protection of the United Nations Children's Fund. Thao Dan, an organization for street children in Saigon (Vietnam) played host to Richard Tregear a part of a inter agency working and relationship building exercise. Richard undertook street work alongside Thao Dan staff, exchanged best practice ideas and participated in Vietnamese and English classes with street children.

Mark Young attended the Annual General Meeting 2004/05 of the United Nations Association of Australia.

**ii. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)**

Open Family Youth Outreach Bus since 2002 has been providing food, material aid, needle and syringe program services, information, support and referral to young people at risk, homeless and commercial sex workers in Melbourne (Australia) three nights per week. The Youth Outreach Bus has contact with on average 120 street frequenting young people and commercial sex workers each week. In addition, the Project Blood Oath –was a Government sponsored Hepatitis C research project undertaken by Open Family, Hepatitis C Council Victoria, Melbourne City Mission and Melbourne University (Australia). The project aimed to create awareness and understanding of Hepatitis C issues amongst homeless young people with Open Family's Youth Outreach Bus providing the means of engaging with street based youth. Approximately 500 people accessed the outreach service during the period of the pilot. It was estimated that approximately 20% of all contacts were with young people aged 15-19 years.

In 2005, Open Family in partnership with the Athenaeum Library has shipped 4 pallet loads of good quality books to Galle (Sri Lanka) which was devastated by the Tsunami. These much needed books and resources will be used to replenish their schools and public library.

### iii. Annual activities

In 2002, Open Family Australia Street Outreach Specialists intensively supported 864 street frequenting young people form 30 ethnic backgrounds, with issues including homelessness, problematic drug use and with over 70% involved in family breakdown or conflict. In total, Street Outreach Specialists participated in intervention support visits on 10441 occasions resulting in over 75% of at risk young people supported by Open Family experiencing a stabilisation or improvement in their situation.

In 2003, Open Family intensively supported a total of 896 street children across Australia, 60% of whom were new clients. In addition, families, police, schools and communities access the Community Outreach Response Support Service (CORSS), an after hours support project for young people in Melbourne's (Australia) western suburbs.

In 2004, Open Family intensively supported a total of 891 street frequenting children and young people across Australia, 45% of whom had no contact with a helping service prior to engaging with one of Open Family's Street Outreach Specialists. In total, Open Family's Street Outreach Specialists provided 14286 episodes of support, averaging 24 episodes for each client. The average length of the supportive intervention was 3.3 months. 86% of all street children who ended intensive involvement with Open Family this year were placed in the care of appropriate services. Of these, a third were referred to other youth and welfare organisations, 17% to drug and alcohol centres and 15% to legal services. Most were referred to more than one service. 23% of all referrals were to health services.

In 2005, Open Family Australia's Street Outreach Specialists intensively supported 872 at-risk and alienated young peopie. 64% of these young people were male, and the majority of the clients were aged between 15 – 19 years (69%). 49% of the young people accessing the service identified as Anglo-Australian, and the other young people supported came from a vast number of ethnic backgrounds. Significant cultural minorities identified in the clientele including South East Asian (24%) and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (8%). In total, Open Family's street outreach service provided 13523 episodes of support. Overall, 44% of the marginalized young people showed a major improvement or improvement in their life situation over their support period, and 16% were helped to achieve stability.

## 5. ORGANIZATION FOR THE SOLIDARITY OF THE PEOPLES OF ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA

**Special Consultative Status in 1998**

PART I: SUMMARY ON THE AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE NGO

OSPAAAL is an international NGO, founded on January 15, 1966, which was granted the Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1998. During forty years of sustained work, OSPAAAL has been devoted to defend the validity of solidarity among the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America by promoting actions and initiatives to strengthen friendship, cooperation and unity of the Third World nations, on the basis of respect to their rights to independence, sovereignty, self-determination and territorial integrity.

The main themes focused in those initiatives and actions correspond to programs, resolutions and other juridical and political instruments approved by the General Assembly, ECOSOC and other bodies of the United Nations system, among them: the eradication of colonialism and other forms of oppression, the maintenance of peace and the stimulation to the peaceful solution of conflicts, the denounce of both terrorism and State terrorism, the respect of human rights from the point of view of their integral and indivisible nature, the defense of the right to social development, the facing of neo-liberal practices, the struggle against poverty, the abolition of all forms of racial, gender or ethnical discrimination, against xenophobia and all forms of social exclusion.

OSPAAAL has 56 member organizations in 46 countries and is conducted by an international Executive Secretariat formed on the basis of an equitable geographic representation by organizations from Angola, Congo, Guinea, South Africa, PDR of Korea, Vietnam, Palestine, Syria, Chile, Guatemala, Puerto Rico and Cuba, which holds the General Secretariat.

OSPAAAL finances its activities with the voluntary contributions of its members, occasional donations of organizations and other institutions with which it has links of collaboration, and the sale of its magazine and other political literature. It publishes the magazine TR/continental in Spanish and English, with a print-run of 3 000 copies.

## PART II : PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES, MAJOR CONFERENCES AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS MEETINGS

During the four years covered by the present report, OSPAAAL has participated in:

- " The World Summit on Sustainable Development "Rfo+10", Johannesburg, South Africa, August 19 through September 4, 2002. A written contribution of both international NGOs with headquarters in Cuba and Cuban NGOs was sent to the event.
- " 59th Session of the Human Rights Commission, Geneva, March 27 through April 14, 2003. Oral contributions were made on items 9, 10 and 12 of the agenda, and a parallel meeting to the official program was co-sponsored, dedicated to disseminate the truth about the case of the five young Cubans who are unjustly imprisoned in the United States.
- 60th Session of the Human Rights Commission, Geneva, March 24 through April 7, 2004. Oral contributions were presented on items 10 and 12 of the agenda, and joint contributions were made on items 9, 11 and 13. Two parallel activities were organized .in coordination with other accredited NGOs: one dedicated to denounce terrorist actions against Cuba and another one to update on the international campaign in support· of the five Cubans imprisoned in the United States.
- " 61st Session of the Human Rights Commission, Geneva, March 28 through April 8, 2005. Oral contributions were made on items 10, 11 and 12 of the agenda and joint contributions on items 13 and 15. OSPAAAL also supported the organization of a parallel meeting to facilitate the exchanges of the wives of the Cuban Five anti-terrorist fighters with the accredited delegations.
- Hearings of the UN General Assembly on the Special Report presented by the Secretary General "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all", New

York, June 23 to 24, 2005. A joint written contribution of the international NGOs in Cuba and Cuban NGOs was sent, with substantial commentaries to the mentioned report.

- Second Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva, September 21 to 30, 2006. Oral contributions were presented during the interactive dialogues that followed the presentations by the Special Representative of the High Commissioner on Cuba, and by the Special Rapporteur on the Situation in the Palestinian Occupied Territories. A parallel meeting was organized to explain the violations of Human Rights committed along eight years against the five Cubans imprisoned in the United States, pointing out that in May 2005, the Group of Arbitrary Detentions declared the arrest of The Five illegal and arbitrary.
- OSPAAAL participated in the inquiry carried out by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations, related to the access of the NGOs to electronic media and communications, July 2006.
- During the period of reference, OSPAAAL has maintained contacts and exchanges of information with the UN NGO Informal Regional Network for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Unless, there were no the required conditions to appoint and send representatives, OSPAAAL followed up the preparatory process and the results of:
    - Panel Discussion "Implementing the D~claration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS", New York, September 2003
    - High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development, New York, October 2003
    - Special High Level Meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods Institutions, New York, April 2004
    - The Annual Conferences for NGOs associated with UN Department of Public Information or in Consultative Status with ECOSOC

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES OR SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The organization has a long history of active participation and cooperation with the work of both the United Nations Division and the Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. As a result of it, it has been invited to appoint a representative to the International Coordinating Committee of NGOs on the Question of Palestine, who has participated as an expert - with possibilities of presiding over plenary sessions, conducting workshops and contributing to the elaboration and monitoring of the approved plans of actionin the following international conferences:

- International Conference of Civil Society in Support of the Palestinian People, New York, September 23-24,2002
- International Conference of Civil Society for Peace in the Middle East, Paris, July 11-13, 2005
- Regional Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean on the Question of Palestine, Caracas, December 13-15,2005

Representatives of the organization have participated actively in the International Meetings of Economists on "Globalization and Development Problems", organized annually in Havana (February of 2003, 2004, 2005) by the National Association of Economists and Accountants of Cuba (ANECC by its Spanish acronym), in coordination with FAO, UNPD, UNESCO, WHO, PHO, UNCTAD and the World Bank.

OSPAAAL participates annually at the Forum of NGOs on the blockade against Cuba, which discusses the .Cuban Report to the United Nations General Secretary on the consequences of that unilateral coercive measure and the need of putting an end to it, in accordance with the relevant resolutions approved by the General Assembly during 14 consecutive years.

INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY THE ORGANIZATION IN SUPPORT OF THE OVERALL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Important activities organized by OSPAAAL as well as by other organizations in consultative status, institutions, and international networks and campaigns, that have been co-sponsored by OSPAAAL or in which it has actively participated, are included here. In all of them, OSPAAAL has defended the validity of the principles of International Law and other juridical instruments of the same nature, while at the same time it has stimulated the acknowledgement and implementation of resolutions and action plans approved by the United Nations, including the Millennium Goals.

- Seminar "Hunger in the World and the Results of the World Summit on Food in Rome, Five Years Later", organized by the Cuban Association of the United Nations (ACNU), Havana, July 18,2002
- Regional Seminary of COPPAL "The Role of Political Parties in the Fight Against Poverty", Havana, October 24-26, 2002
- International Conference "Challenges of the 21st Century and the Role of International Law", organized by the National Association of Jurists of Cuba (UNJC), Havana, November 14-16, 2002
- International Conference "War or Peace Processes?: Palestine, Colombia and Sahara", organized by OSPAAAL - Solidarity from Spain, Madrid, November 22-24,2002
- International Conference "Peace: Reflections on the Third Millennium", sponsored by the Regional Office of the World Peace Council (WPC), Havana, November 26-28, 2002
- 3rd World Social Forum, Porto Alegre, Brazil, January 23-28, 2003
- Celebration of the first anniversary of the creation of the African Union, organized by OSPAAAL, Havana, March 2, 2003
- 3rd Assembly of the Peoples of the Caribbean, Cap-Haitien, Haiti, August 20-24,2003
- 4th Regional Conference of the Women's International Democratic Federation (FDIM), Caracas, Venezuela, September 22-26, 2003
- International Symposiums of Studies on Asia and the Pacific, organized by the Center for Studies on Asia and Oceania (CEAO), Havana, November 2003 and January 2005
- 4th World Social Forum, Mumbai, India, January 16-21,2004

- World Peace Assembly, Athens, Greece, May 6-9, 2004
- International Seminar "The World in the 21st Century: Challenges and Hopes", Havana, May 11-14,2004
- Social Forum of the Americas, Quito, Ecuador, July 25-30, 2004
- 5th World Social FOium 2005, Porto Alegre, Brazil, January 25-31, 2005
- International Seminar on Poverty in the World, on the 60th anniversary of the independence of Vietnam and the 55th anniversary of the World Peace Council, Hanoi, September 1-5, 2005
- Summit of the Peoples of the Americas, Mar del Plata, Argentina, November 1-5, 2005
- International Seminar "The Reconciliation and the New Political Process of the Nation During the First 11 Years of Democracy in South Africa", organized by OSPAAAL and the South African Embassy, Havana, December 15-16, 2005
- 8th and 11th International Seminars on Current Problems in Africa and the Middle East, organized by the Center for Studies on Africa and the Middle East (CEAMO), Havana, November 2002